Foreign
Broadcast
Information
Service
50
ANNIVERSARY
1941 - 1991

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-056
Friday
22 March 1991

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-91-056 CONTENTS *22 March 1991*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Officials React to Bush Remarks on Rice Incident *[KYODO]* 1
Foreign Minister Nakayama Visits United States 1
    Meets President Bush *[KYODO]* 1
    Meets With Treasury Secretary *[KYODO]* 2
    Announces Kaifu-Bush Talks *[KYODO]* 3
Spokesman Remarks on Kaifu Visit to U.S. *[KYODO]* 3
Official Says Return of Okinawa Bases Difficult *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 16 Mar]* 4
Loans to USSR for Overdue Payments Planned *[KYODO]* 4
Nuclear Materials Not Part of USSR Agreement *[KYODO]* 5
SDP Chairwoman Doi To Meet Gorbachev in Moscow *[KYODO]* 5
LDP Official on Aid to USSR, Islands Issue *[KYODO]* 5
    More on Phased Return *[KYODO]* 6
    Comments on Kaifu Term *[Tokyo TV]* 6
1st-Term SDPJ Dietmen To Demand Reshuffle *[Tokyo TV]* 7
PRC Agrees on 1st Coal Price Cut in 4 Years *[KYODO]* 7
Business Leaders Urge Maintaining Tight Credit *[KYODO]* 7
Credit Association To Set Own Prime Rates *[KYODO]* 7
Malaysian Envoy Remarks on Economic Grouping *[KYODO]* 8
    Trade Officials in 'Quandary' *[KYODO]* 8

Mongolia

MSDP Seeks Socialist International Membership *[MONTSAME]* 10
Move to Market Economy Reflected in Art *[MONTSAME]* 10
MONTSAME Carries 20 Mar Press Review 10

North Korea

Red Cross Spokesman on South's Letter Refusal *[KCNA]* 11
'Chemical Warfare' Preparations in South Viewed *[KCNA]* 11
ROK UN Membership Campaign 'Unjustifiable' *[KCNA]* 12
U.S. Moves To Reinforce South Forces Scorned *[Pyongyang Radio]* 12
20 Mar Team Spirit Exercises Reported *[KCNA]* 13
Commentator Denounces No Tae-u, Team Spirit *[Pyongyang Radio]* 14
Workers Warn War Fanatics Doomed to Destruction *[KCNA]* 15
NODONG SINMUN Urges Chinese Reunification *[KCNA]* 15
Kim Il-song Receives Letter From Gorbachev *[Pyongyang Radio]* 15
Film Show, Gathering Arranged With Soviets *[KCNA]* 16
Indonesian Parliament Delegates Tour Mangyongdae *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
    Send Message to Kim Il-song *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
Kim Tal-hyon at UNDP Commissioning Ceremony *[KCNA]* 16
Supreme People's Assembly Meeting Set for 11 Apr *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
    SPA Deputies To Register 9-10 Apr *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
Kim Il-song at Samsok District Cooperative Farm *[KCNA]* 17
Bumper Harvest of Kelp, Mussel Reported *[KCNA]* 17
Anniversary of Myongsin School Commemorated *[KCNA]* 18
Komdok Miners Overfulfill Production Quotas *[KCNA]* 18
Progress of Nampo Smelting Complex Reported *[KCNA]* 18

Pyongyang's Chinese Residents Help Build Tramway *[KCNA]* 18
New Restaurants Open on Kwangbok Street *[KCNA]* 19
KCNA Review of Mar Pyongyang Press 19

South Korea

Koreans in Japan Agree on Joint Cheering Squad *[YONHAP]* 20
Government To Begin Campaign for UN Membership *[YONHAP]* 20
Ministry Official Explains Plan for Joining UN *[YONHAP]* 20
Indirect Trade With North Surpasses 1990 Total *[YONHAP]* 21
NSP Arrests Pro-North Student Group Members *[YONHAP]* 21
ROK Envoy to Costa Rica on DPRK 'Sabotage' *[San Jose LA REPUBLICA 8 Mar]* 21
Chinese-Korean Peddler Describes DPRK Travel *[WOLGAN CHOSON Dec]* 22
PRC Bid To Host ESCAP Assembly Supported *[YONHAP]* 33
Cultural Center To Be Established in China *[YONHAP]* 34
Taiwan Reportedly To Buy 'Fleet' of Corvettes *[THE KOREA TIMES 9 Mar]* 34
U.S. To Receive $100 Million in Cash for Gulf *[THE KOREA TIMES 21 Mar]* 34
$50 Million To Be Invested in Trans-Soviet Line *[YONHAP]* 34
Report on Soviet Notice of Arms Sales Denied *[THE KOREA TIMES 21 Mar]* 35
Industrial Standards Accord Sought With Moscow *[YONHAP]* 35
Companies Plan Oil Exploration in SRV Field *[KOREA DAILY 20 Mar]* 35
    More on Consortium Plans *[THE KOREA TIMES 17 Mar]* 35
Six Company Branches To Open in Vietnam *[HANGYORE SINMUN 22 Mar]* 36
Nuclear Research Group Signs Pact With French *[YONHAP]* 36
Election Committee Fears Turnout Below Half *[THE KOREA HERALD 21 Mar]* 36
Wolgyesuhoe Group Intensifies Its Activities *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 20 Mar]* 37
Kim Tae-chung on Election as DLP, PPD Race *[YONHAP]* 38
DLP Appoints Additional 'Vice Spokesmen' *[THE KOREA HERALD 22 Mar]* 38
Foreign Ministry To Play Bigger Role in Trade *[THE KOREA TIMES 22 Mar]* 39
Tariff Rate Cut Set for 'High-Tech' Industries *[THE KOREA HERALD 22 Mar]* 39
SWIFT Financial Network Allows Banks To Join *[YONHAP]* 39
Electronic Export Figures Projected To Increase *[YONHAP]* 40
Competition Said Needed To Stabilize Prices *[YONHAP]* 40
Firms Plan Increased Computer Chip Production *[KOREA DAILY 20 Mar]* 40
Hyundai Reportedly To Export Cars to Mongolia *[THE KOREA TIMES 20 Mar]* 41
Crude Steel Production, Consumption Statistics *[YONHAP]* 41
KYONGHYANG SINMUN To Become Morning Paper *[KYONGHYANG SINMUN 20 Mar]* 41
No Stresses Price Stabilization for Workers *[THE KOREA TIMES 12 Mar]* 41
Charges for Services, Utilities Rise 9.3 Percent *[YONHAP]* 42
Aeronautical Telecommunication Systems Planned *[YONHAP]* 42

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Questionaire Seen as Step Toward New Constitution *[London International]* 43
BBC on Resignation of NLD's Myint Myint Khin *[London International]* 43
More Insurgents Surrender to Military Commands *[Rangoon Radio]* 43

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister To Explain Proposal in Japan, ROK *[BERNAMA]* 44
South America Targeted as New Palm Oil Market *[AFP]* 44
Environmental Groups Faulted for Timber Boycott *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 44

Cambodia

Agricultural, Industrial Production Reported *[SPK]* 45
Special Ranariddh Message on Funcinpec Founding *[Radio VOK]* 45
    Commentary on Ranariddh Message *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 48
AFP: Khmer Rouge Moves To Assist KPNLF Town 48
Command Orders Downing of Enemy Aircraft *[Radio VONADK]* 49
Support Pledged To Liberate Kampot Province *[Radio VONADK]* 49

Indonesia

Minister on Investment Climate, PRC Trip *[ANTARA]* 50
Shipping Company Plans To Expand Routes to PRC *[ANTARA]* 50

Laos

Meeting on Troop Withdrawal Held in Thailand *[Vientiane Radio]* 50
Kaysone Phomvihan Addresses Khammouane Conference *[Vientiane Radio]* 51
PASASON on Significance of Party's Leadership *[Vientiane Radio]* 51
PASASON Editorial on Leadership Role *[Vientiane Radio]* 52
Agreement on U.S. Medical Assistance Signed *[KPL]* 52

Philippines

Imelda Marcos 'Sure To Run for President' *[Manila Radio]* 53
Government Preparing Cases Against Imelda Marcos *[Quezon City Radio]* 53
Negotiating Panel To Refuse U.S. Base Offer *[Quezon City Radio]* 53
Senate Committees To Prevent Sale of Bases Land *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 22 Mar]* 53
Further on Fate of U.S. Military Facilities *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 22 Mar]* 54
Aquino: Consultations Not Constitutional Violation *[Quezon City Radio]* 55
Column Views Aquino's Handling of Bases Issue *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 22 Mar]* 55
Editorial Views U.S. Treatment of Debt *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 22 Mar]* 56
Japan Advises Reassessment of Economic Policies *[BUSINESS WORLD 22 Mar]* 57
Military Chief Admits Lack of Defense Capability *[Manila Radio]* 58
National Police Take Charge of Manila Security *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 22 Mar]* 58
    Manila Declared 'Armalite-Free' Zone *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 22 Mar]* 58
Military Chief Orders More Troops to Marag *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 21 Mar]* 58
Military Uncovers MNLF Plot To Oust Misuari *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 22 Mar]* 59
'Kidnap Group' Uses Ransom Money To Buy Arms *[Quezon City Radio]* 59

Thailand

King Phumiphon Decrees 29 Mar NLA Meeting *[Bangkok Radio]* 59
Sunthon on Separation of Powers, Constitution *[BANGKOK POST 22 Mar]* 59
Anan Addresses Gathering at Government House *[BANGKOK POST 21 Mar]* 60
Editorial on Police-Organized Crime Cooperation *[THE NATION 21 Mar]* 61
Khieu Samphan: Khmer Rouge To Attend Apr Meet *[MATICHON 22 Mar]* 62
Trip to Kuwait for Reconstruction Talks Planned *[BANGKOK POST 22 Mar]* 62
Prime Minister on U.S. Assistance, Labor Law *[Bangkok Radio]* 62
Minister Briefs Press on Talks With U.S. Envoy *[Bangkok TV]* 62
    Views Intellectual Property Rights *[MATICHON 22 Mar]* 62
    Further on Amaret's Comments *[THE NATION 22 Mar]* 63
Thai-U.S. Group To Discuss Future Aviation Talks *[BANGKOK POST 22 Mar]* 63
    Talks Achieve 'Satisfactory Progress' *[Radio VOFA]* 64
Japanese Envoy Meets Minister on Ties, Trade *[Bangkok Radio]* 64
Article Views Effect of Coup on Japanese Policy *[THE NATION 22 Mar]* 64

Vietnam

Justice Minister Interviewed on Talks With U.S. *[Hanoi TV]* 65
Workers in Bulgaria Discussed at Press Briefing *[VNA]* 66

Bulgarian Envoy Gives Ministry Note on Workers *[VNA]* 67
Le Quang Dao To Visit USSR in 'Near Future' *[VNA]* 67
Tran Quang Co Meets Philippine Counterpart *[VNA]* 67
Vo Chi Cong Receives New Cambodian Ambassador *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
    Do Muoi Receives Uch Borit *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
Radio Rebuts Critics of CPV Leadership *[Hanoi Radio]* 67
Army Paper Marks CPV's Founding Anniversary *[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 3 Feb]* 69
Tay Ninh Prosecutes Party Members for Corruption *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Lai Chau Holds First Round Party Congress *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
Security Guard Police Reviews 1990 Achievements *[Hanoi TV]* 71
UNDP Official Addresses Investment Forum *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
Radio on Import-Export Value of Trade Sector *[Hanoi Radio]* 72
Report on Agricultural Activities Nationwide *[Hanoi Radio]* 72

Japan

Officials React to Bush Remarks on Rice Incident

OW2203051291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0455 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto on Friday stood by Japan's ban on exhibiting U.S. rice at a trade fair in Chiba, near Tokyo, last week, and said the Americans should respect Japanese laws.

But he declined to comment on how the flare-up over a refusal by the U.S. Embassy and the U.S.A. Rice Council to heed the ban until the final day of the food fair last Saturday would affect bilateral relations.

Commenting on U.S. President George Bush's reported dismay over the food fair incident, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto said, "I understand how the Americans feel, but Japan has its own laws and policies, and the U.S. must respect them."

Bush expressed regret over the standoff at the Foodex Trade Fair in talks Thursday in Washington with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Motoji Kondo said last week that activities promoting foreign rice violate an import ban imposed under Japan's food control law, and asked U.S. and other foreign exhibitors to remove the rice.

The U.S. defied the request until the last day of the five-day fair.

Sakamoto, speaking at a news conference, also declined to comment on whether agricultural liberalization would be addressed in a Japan-U.S. summit being planned for early next month, saying final details of the meeting have not been set.

The first talks between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Bush since the Persian Gulf hostilities wound down three weeks ago are slated to take place in early April in California, just prior to nationwide local elections in Japan.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has traditionally avoided addressing the rice issue around election time so as not to upset the agricultural community, a strong LDP supporter.

Kaifu told reporters separately that he does not believe Bush's attention to the rice exhibition is linked to a U.S. request for Japan to undertake a more flexible rice policy.

Bush "is not pressuring us to open our market, but thinks that the demand to remove rice at this time is rather too inciting," Kaifu said.

"From what I've heard, the (comment) was limited in scope to this particular exhibition," he said.

The United States has repeatedly urged Japan to accept token imports equal to 3 percent of the Japanese rice market by the mid- 1990s to help advance multilateral agricultural talks.

The final meeting of Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks broke down in December after the U.S. and the European Community failed to reach an agreement on reducing farm subsidies.

Yoshihiro Hamaguchi, director general of the Food Agency, echoed Sakamoto's words later in the day, saying the U.S. should have complied with Japanese food control laws and kept its promise not to exhibit illegal farm products.

Hamaguchi said the Japanese Government had earlier fully explained to U.S. representatives the unlawfulness of exhibiting the rice.

But he stressed the ban has nothing to do with foreign pressure on Japan to open its rice market.

Hamaguchi said if the circumstances leading to the government's request for the rice be removed from the fair are explained accurately to Bush, the President's misunderstanding will be resolved.

He said he may ask the Japanese Embassy in Washington to give Bush a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

Meanwhile, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry officials discounted the possibility that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, at his meeting with Bush on April 4 in California, will "make a dramatic political judgment" on the domestic rice market while Japanese local elections were imminent.

However, some Japanese farm organization officials expressed fears that Kaifu may be obliged to promise Bush he will make a political decision on proposed minimum access to the market within one or two months after the local elections, which are scheduled for mid-April.

Foreign Minister Nakayama Visits United States

Meets President Bush

OW2203001391 Tokyo KYODO in English 2345 GMT 21 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 21 KYODO—President George Bush expressed deep regret Thursday over Japan's banning of an exhibition of American rice at a recent food fair near Tokyo.

Bush raised the rice issue in a 25-minute White House meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, officials said.

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Secretary of State James Baker also deplored the rice episode in a separate two- hour meeting with Nakayama.

The official said Nakayama characterized the episode at the food fair in Makuhari, Chiba Prefecture, as an isolated incident, contending that Japan is committed to successfully concluding the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

U.S. trade officials say the opening of the Japanese rice market is one of the prerequisites for the round's success.

A Japanese trade official insisted that the issues of Japan opening its rice market and the U.S. rice exhibition were separate, adding U.S. officials at the fair made a procedural mistake.

But a senior U.S. official lashed out at Japan's Agriculture Ministry by threatening to arrest U.S. businessmen at the food fair.

"They are absolutely and completely stupid," the official said.

The incident, he said, "is one of the dumbest things I've heard in my life.

"He (President Bush) noticed it and he didn't like it," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Bush himself hopes to meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as soon as can be conveniently arranged.

During a brief photo session in the Oval Office, Bush told reporters, "I look forward to talking with him when it's convenient for the prime minister. I'd like to do it soon."

Just before reporters and photographers left, the President gestured toward Baker and National Security Affairs Adviser Brent Scowcroft and said he will consult with them about Kaifu's visit.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Bush "expressed his appreciation for Japan's contributions to the coalition against Iraq's aggression."

Nakayama in return relayed to Bush "the regards of the prime minister and congratulations on the President's leadership of the coalition's success," Fitzwater said in a statement.

A high-ranking Japanese official said Kaifu's trip to the U.S. will take place in early April, but he did not expect an announcement on the U.S. visit during Nakayama's current visit.

The rice exhibition prompted a WASHINGTON POST editorial Thursday headlined "The Great Tokyo Food Fight."

"This incident is an unpleasantly clear illustration of what's going wrong in the politics of world trade and what's happening to the world trade negotiations," the editorial said.

"By calling the cops at the Tokyo exhibition, Japan has given a clear signal of resistance to the open and forthcoming give-and-take that will be required for progress in trade in the 1990s," the POST said.

During Nakayama's White House visit, Bush expressed his desire to visit Japan. A planned visit this spring was postponed because of the Gulf war.

Nakayama told Bush that the Japanese Government did its best to financially help the U.S.-led Allied forces drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, Japanese officials said.

In his meeting with Baker, Nakayama also said that Japan plans to discuss the return of four Soviet-held northern islands to Japan, Japan Sea issues and security in the Pacific when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits in April.

Baker briefed Nakayama on his recent trip to the Middle East and the Soviet Union, and the two foreign ministers exchanged views on regional security, arms control, the Arab-Israeli conflict and economic cooperation.

Baker also told the Japanese foreign minister that the U.S. is considering measures to normalize relations with Vietnam, based on the resolution of the Cambodian conflict and the fate of American soldiers still unaccounted for in Vietnam, officials said.

The senior Japanese official said Nakayama proposed the inauguration of meetings between former Japanese prime ministers and foreign ministers and U.S. presidents and secretaries of state.

Nakayama suggested an inaugural meeting in the U.S. sometime this fall, and Baker said he will study the Japanese proposal.

Nakayama also explained to Baker his plans to visit China and the off-and-on talks on normalizing relations between Japan and North Korea, Japanese official said.

Meets With Treasury Secretary

OW2203022991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0152 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Washington, March 21 KYODO—The United States formally asked Japan Thursday to join a multilateral investment fund to promote economic development in Latin American countries gripped by mounting debts and high inflation.

The request was made when Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama met U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, a Japanese official said.

The official said David Mulford, undersecretary of the Treasury for international affairs, made the U.S. request so Japan could consider it before the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank in Nagoya next month.

Nakayama said the Japanese Government will study the request.

The multilateral investment fund is part of President George Bush's enterprise for America's initiatives for trade, investment and debt reduction.

U.S. officials said Washington will allocate 100 million dollars to the investment scheme and counts on Japan and Western Europe for more funds.

Brady told Nakayama that Japan's payment Friday of 5.7 billion dollars of its 9 billion dollar Persian Gulf war pledge is "very good news."

Japanese officials said Brady also underscored the importance of the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round, calling agriculture the key to a Uruguay Round agreement.

In a Capitol Hill meeting with Nakayama, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell called on Japan to take more steps to open its markets to dispel the perception that Japan is not open to foreign firms.

Officials said Senate minority whip Alan Simpson suggested in a separate meeting with Nakayama that some sort of Japanese presence in the Persian Gulf war would have improved Japan's image in the U.S. Simpson, a Wyoming Republican, suggested that dispatching a hospital ship would improve Japan's image.

He told Nakayama that the U.S. is closely following which companies win contracts in newly liberated Kuwait, cautioning Japanese companies against being too greedy in search of quick profits, Japanese officials said.

Announces Kaifu-Bush Talks

OW2203041591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 22 Mar 91

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] Washington, March 21 KYODO—The United States on Thursday proposed a meeting between President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in California on April 4, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said here Thursday.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said the meeting will focus on post-Persian Gulf war arrangements for the region, arms control, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) on bilateral trade, and other international political and economic issues.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Tokyo on April 16-19 will also figure prominently in the California meeting, Japanese officials said.

Bush and Kaifu last met in New York last September.

Nakayama announced the California summit at a brief news conference after meeting Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle, Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. leaders.

Bush told Nakayama in a White House meeting that alleged threats of arrest against American businessmen over a disputed rice display at a food fair would invite congressional reprisals beyond his veto power.

A U.S. official said the President "was upset" about the Japanese refusal to permit the display of U.S.-grown rice at the food fair.

Secretary of State James Baker also said in a separate two-hour meeting with Nakayama that the rice episode has caused "very, very bad publicity in the U.S."

Officials of the Japanese Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry Ministry's Food Agency said displaying foreign rice in the food fair last week in Chiba, near Tokyo, was a clear violation of Japan's food control law.

The agency asked the U.S. displayers to remove the rice, but they refused to do so until the last day of the fair.

Japanese farmers' groups reportedly asked Chiba prefectural police to investigate whether the food control law had been broken.

Spokesman Remarks on Kaifu Visit to U.S.

OW2203100191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is to travel to the United States for talks with with President George Bush on April 4 to discuss the Middle East peace process and reconstruction and the upcoming trip to Japan by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Friday.

Kaifu also hopes to use the visit to reverse a downward spiral of U.S. public opinion toward Japan following Tokyo's decision against a military role in the Persian Gulf war, a prime ministerial aide said.

"U.S. opinion toward Japan is worse than expressed in the Japanese media, and the prime minister is very worried that this might become permanent," he said, explaining Kaifu's desire to hold the summit as soon as possible.

"This will be a tough visit," the aide said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto said that trade issues would also be discussed, but declined to comment on whether the contentious issue of opening Japan's rice market would be on the table.

On Thursday Bush told visiting Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama he was dismayed by Japan's move last week to close down a U.S. rice exhibition at a food fair held in Chiba City near Tokyo.

American officials in Washington have seen symbolic meaning in the ban on exhibiting rice, also enforced the previous year, saying it shows Japan's resistance to the compromises needed to make progress in multilateral talks on agricultural trade.

Secretary of State James Baker told Nakayama in a two-hour meeting that the rice display episode has received "very, very bad publicity in the U.S."

Kaifu seemed to brush off Bush's interest in the politically sensitive issue Friday by telling reporters Bush was only concerned about the isolated incident at the trade fair and did not intend to pressure Tokyo to drop its virtual ban on rice imports.

Sakamoto, responding to Bush's comments, told reporters the United States is expected to follow Japan's food control law, under which rice imports are severely restricted.

The Japan-U.S. summit, expected to be held in California, was arranged after Bush signalled he would not be able to come to Japan this spring as planned due to a crowded schedule following the Persian Gulf war.

Japanese officials have said they want to confer with U.S. leaders prior to an April 16-19 visit here by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is slated to become the first Kremlin leader ever to visit Japan.

Consultations with Washington on the Japan-Soviet dispute over ownership of four Soviet-held islands northeast of Hokkaido is important because the problem was born out of the cold war era, a Foreign Ministry official said earlier in the week.

Resolution of the four-decade old disagreement would pave the way for a peace treaty and enhanced economic and political ties with the Soviet Union.

Both Kaifu and Gorbachev have expressed hope that significant progress will be made in improving relations during Gorbachev's visit.

Other issues likely to be addressed by Kaifu and Bush in their first meeting since September include arms control, the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks on reducing barriers to bilateral trade, and financial aid to the Soviet Union.

Kaifu is tentatively scheduled to leave for the west coast of the United States on April 3, and return on April 5.

Official Says Return of Okinawa Bases Difficult

OW2203125791 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 16 Mar 91 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—Yoichi Tani, director-general of the Okinawa Development Agency, touched on the prefectural government's outline for the Third Okinawa Development Promotion Program, which was submitted by Governor Masahide Ota on 14 March, at the news conference held after the cabinet meeting on the morning of 15 March. Concerning the issue of the "overall return of military bases" as stated in the outline, Director-General Tani said: "Because there are so many bases, there certainly are obstacles (to the promotion of development programs). It is beyond any doubt that it would be better (to do without bases)." Thus, he indicated his understanding of the request for the overall return of these bases. However, he added: "It is important to have land sites reduced as much as possible but (from the government's position), we cannot demand the immediate and overall withdrawal." Thus, he disclosed his view officially for the first time that it is necessary to have bases returned but it would be difficult ("from a practical viewpoint").

Furthermore, touching on the demand for the overall land return, Director-General Tani stated his criticism that "we cannot say that the bases should be absolutely eliminated, and local people and papers should show a little more understanding (for the governor's position).

With regard to the resort development programs worked out for the use of the land lots after they are returned, Director-General Tani pointed out: "As a result of reckless and unorganized development, the limited area of land in the prefecture will become further limited." He then added: "Since the start of reckless development, it has also been reported in the local papers that such development programs will cause troubles." Concerning the use of returned land lots, Director-General Tani stated that this problem should not be left to the land owners themselves, and added that "when land lots are returned, that would be the time to work out plans for public utilization of returned land lots." Thus, he indicated the Okinawa Development Agency's position on taking an active part in the use of returned land lots.

Loans to USSR for Overdue Payments Planned

OW2203141991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1310 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan plans to extend loans to the Soviet Union to help it make up the country's overdue payments for Japanese imports, one of major stumbling blocks for bilateral economic ties, government sources said Friday.

The loan plan, closely coinciding with the visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in mid-April, will be conveyed by Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), when he visits Moscow on Sunday.

If realized, the credit, to be co-financed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan and private banks to Vnesh Ekonomy Bank, or Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs, will be the biggest provided by Japan since the Soviet leader launched his perestroyka, or restructuring and is expected to provide a substantial kick to two-way trade.

The Soviet bank will cover the arrears owed to Japanese trading houses, estimated at 450 million dollars at the end of February, on behalf of cash-strapped Soviet state-run corporations.

If the country's transformation into a market economy succeeds in making such corporations profitable, the Soviet bank will be able to use part of their earnings to repay the Japanese credit.

The payment arrears problem, along with the pending territorial issue concerning sovereignty over four small islands off Hokkaido, northern Japan, has made Japanese trading firms hesitant to become actively involved in deals with the Soviets.

At a bilateral economic meeting held in Tokyo in late January, Japanese business leaders called for an early solution to the payments problem.

Nuclear Materials Not Part of USSR Agreement

OW2203113191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1103 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Exports and imports of nuclear-related materials will not be included in a Japan-Soviet atomic energy cooperation agreement, due to be signed during Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit to Japan, government sources said Friday.

The agreement will not cover those items because Japan considers it too early for a full-scale treaty involving them to be signed and because the domestic electric power industry is not enthusiastic about importing Soviet-made enriched uranium, the sources said.

In working level talks, the Soviet Union has insisted on a full- scale treaty which will lead to the exportation of materials such as enriched uranium.

The agreed contents of the agreement only cover ensuring security of nuclear facilities, protection from and observation of radiation, studies on the peaceful use of atomic energy, and the treatment of radioactive wastes, the sources said.

The government will approve the contents of the accord at a cabinet meeting in early April, the sources added.

SDP Chairwoman Doi To Meet Gorbachev in Moscow

OW2203035791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0343 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The Chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Takako Doi, will meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on April 2, shortly before Gorbachev's visit to Japan, party officials confirmed Friday.

Doi disclosed last Wednesday that Gorbachev had invited her to meet him, but said she would consult with other leaders of the SDP, Japan's largest opposition party, before deciding whether to go.

Doi will visit the Soviet Union from April 1 to 3. She had initially planned to go to Moscow around April 8, but was asked by the Soviets to bring forward the trip because of their preparations for Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit to Japan.

LDP Official on Aid to USSR, Islands Issue

OW2203114391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—A top leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Friday Japan will back economic development in the Soviet Union if Moscow recognizes Japan's sovereignty over a group of disputed islands off the northeastern tip of Hokkaido.

Ichiro Ozawa, the LDP secretary general, told a group of business leaders earlier in the day that Japan would accept a phased return of the disputed islands once the Kremlin recognizes Japanese claims to the islands.

Ozawa is scheduled to visit Moscow from Sunday to Tuesday for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the territorial dispute. Gorbachev is due to visit Japan in mid-April.

A Foreign Ministry source confirmed that the government backs the phased return policy which has emerged over the past week as a "realistic approach" to the territorial issue.

"After all, there are 20,000 or 30,000 Soviet people living there. There are military facilities there so the matter of reversion can be taken up in talks after the sovereignty is recognized," he said.

Meeting reporters before his trip, Ozawa did not specify the nature of the economic cooperation the Japanese Government would provide, although there has been speculation that Japanese firms are keen to work on Soviet natural gas projects and other development schemes in the Soviet Union worth a total of 22 billion dollars.

"If a political settlement (of the teritorial issue) can be realized, we can get back to things the way they should have been in the first place, including backing from the government," he said.

In his meeting with top Japanese businessmen Friday morning, Ozawa emphasized that Japan will not yield on its basic position that all four of the Soviet-held island territories—Etorofu Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—should be returned to Japan "simultaneously."

But Ozawa admitted that a "physical time lag" in returning two islands first and another two later would be within the limits of Japan's basic position.

The Soviets have occupied the disputed islands since the end of World War II, but in 1956 agreed to return Shikotan and the Habomai group pending the conclusion of a peace treaty between the two nations.

The deal, agreed upon in the Japan-Soviet joint delaration formally ending World War II hostilities between the two nations, was unilaterally called off by the Soviet side in 1960 when Moscow protested Japan's renewal of its security treaty with the United States.

Ozawa's visit to Moscow comes prior to a scheduled April 16-19 visit by Gorbachev to Japan, during which the territorial issue is expected to be a major topic.

Ozawa said Friday he plans to urge Gorbachev to demilitarize the Soviet-held islands and alleviate tensions in East Asia, pointing out that despite post-cold war trends in Europe "an element of unease remains in Asia."

Ozawa said he does not plan to press Gorbachev for specific measures on the islands issue or economic cooperation, adding the matters will be left completely to the government.

In addition to a natural gas development project in Yakut, there are projects worth some 2.5 billion dollars for developing the Siberian continental shelf and another 2.2 billion dollars associated with the Tobolsk chemical complex in western Siberia.

More on Phased Return

OW2203072291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Friday that if the Soviet Union recognizes Japan's sovereignty over four disputed islands off Hokkaido, a phased return of the islands to Japan would be acceptable.

Ichiro Ozawa, who is scheduled to visit Moscow from Sunday to Tuesday for talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev on the decades- long territorial dispute between the two countries, said Japan will not yield its basic position that all four of the Soviet-held islands should be returned to Japan simultaneously.

Ozawa, who was speaking to business leaders, said, however, that there could be a delay between the return of two islands and the subsequent handing over of the two other, larger, islands, if the Soviet Union agreed to return all the four islands.

The Soviets have occupied the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—since the end of World War II.

Ozawa's visit to Moscow comes prior to Gorbachev's scheduled April 16-19 visit to Japan, during which the territorial issue is expected to be a major topic.

Ozawa said the government and the ruling party are ready to provide economic assistance to the Soviet Union if the territorial dispute is settled.

There has been speculation that Gorbachev may propose in Tokyo the return of Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets to Japan.

The Soviet Union promised in the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration to return the two islands after a Japan-Soviet peace treaty is concluded, but said in 1960 that it could no longer implement the promise because of the Japan-U.S. security treaty.

Comments on Kaifu Term

OW2203052991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Ichiro Ozawa, Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] general secretary, spoke at a meeting of four party executives and top leaders of four major economic groups this morning, and predicted that Prime Minister Kaifu will remain in power until October, when his term expires. Speaking about political prospects, he said he expected the LDP's presidential election to be carried out according to party rules.

In the meeting, Mr. Ozawa said things are going well in the Diet, noting that the additional $9 billion contribution to the Gulf multinational forces will be implemented and the 1991 budget will be approved during the current session.

He said his party also is doing well in campaigns for upcoming unified local elections. He said: Waves on all four seas are calm. He stressed that there are no problems within the Kaifu government, and expressed his belief that the LDP presidential election will be carried out according to party rules. This is interpreted as a prediction that the Kaifu cabinet will remain intact until October, when Kaifu's term expires.

Speaking about his visit to the Soviet Union, to begin on 24 March, the party's general secretary said that there is no change in Japan's policy calling for the return of all four islands in one package. Noting that people currently are living on the four islands, he said that if the Soviet Union recognizes frankly that the four islands are Japan's territories, it is possible that the four islands will be returned to Japan in stages.

Meanwhile, the heads of the four economic groups spoke on the current financial policy, and insisted that problems of the so- called bubble economy—caused by high land prices and stock prices—have not been resolved fully. They said that economic circles agree that under the current economic situation the ongoing financial policy should be maintained for the time being.

Regarding this, the LDP executives said the party does not want to be involved in this matter.

1st-Term SDPJ Dietmen To Demand Reshuffle

OW2103193491 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Text] The New Wave Group [NWG], a group of first-term members of the Lower House representing the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], agreed to call for the current party executives to resign after nationwide local elections because they have failed to take any realistic measures. This was decided in a meeting held today.

In the meeting, many NWG members said that the party leadership failed to present any realistic responses to issues such as the urgent revision of the consumption tax and measures for Japan's contribution to UN peacekeeping activities. They also voiced dissatisfaction with a delay in selecting the SDPJ candidate for the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial election.

Some of those present even insisted on an immediate resignation of all party executives, including Chairperson Takako Doi. In conclusion, the group members agreed to call for a leadership reshuffle after the unified local elections.

The emergence of dissatisfaction among the party's rank and file is likely to arouse intra-party conflicts and discussions on the party's political direction.

PRC Agrees on 1st Coal Price Cut in 4 Years

OW2203092691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—China has agreed to reduce the price of coal exported to Japan in fiscal 1991 for the first time in four years, Japanese industry officials said Friday.

The officials said the agreement was reached in price bargaining between representatives from China and Japanese electric power and cement industries.

The new price was agreed upon at 39.45 dollars per ton, down 1 dollar from fiscal 1990, the officials said.

It was the first price cut in four years, they said.

The Japanese industries have agreed to import 2.7 million tons of coal from China in fiscal 1991, or up 200,000 tons from the previous year, with a 5 percent plus or minus variation, the officials said.

Business Leaders Urge Maintaining Tight Credit

OW2203043391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0408 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Leaders of Japan's four major business groups said Friday they want the government to maintain the current tight monetary policy for a while, shaking off calls for a quick discount rate cut from some government officials.

In talks with Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, and other top ruling party officials, the business leaders said there is a consensus in the business community that current monetary policy should stay unchanged for a while, according to officials attending the talks.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and heads of the Japan Association of Corporate Executive (Keizai Koyukai, the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, took part in the talks at a Tokyo hotel.

"Some in the four groups are in a position of opposition (to an early cut in the official discount rate) because the bubble economy has not spent itself yet," one business leader was quoted as tell the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) officials.

The LDP officials reportedly told the businessmen that the party has yet to decide whether to lower the key interest rate, although some businesses are calling for an early rate reduction.

"We heard requests (for a rate cut) from some industries, and have been contacting monetary authorities. But our party has not drawn any conclusion," one party official was quoted as saying.

But another LDP official reportedly suggested that the LDP may press the Bank of Japan to cut the discount rate depending on economic conditions.

"If conditions allow (for a rate cut), our party could begin thinking (of a rate cut)," the official was quoted as saying.

The business leaders often hold talks with top LDP officials to exchange views on the economy and political issues.

Credit Association To Set Own Prime Rates

OW2203083091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—Japan's largest credit association, Jonan Shinyo Kinko, said Friday it will introduce a new formula for setting its own short- and long-term prime rates starting April 1.

It will be the first Japanese financial institution to adopt such a policy, which contrasts with the present system under which a prime lending rate has been virtually decided jointly by larger banks.

The current arrangement provides for three long-term credit banks to fix jointly their unified long-term prime rate each month and for 12 major commercial banks to set a unified short-term rate.

Jonan Shinyo Kinko, under its new formula, will set its short- term prime rate based on deposit rates and operating expenses, company officials said.

In fixing its long-term prime rate, the credit association will add margins based on lending terms to the short-term prime rate, they said.

According to the officials, the new formula will make both rates higher than those fixed under the current method.

Currently, the major commercial banks set their short-term prime rate on the basis of a basket of key money market rates. The short- term prime rate is a fee charged on loans of up to one year to most creditworthy customers.

The three long-term credit banks, meanwhile, set their long-term prime rate charged on loans of more than one year to their best customers taking into consideration secondary-market yields on their monthly debentures.

Malaysian Envoy Remarks on Economic Grouping

OW2103133891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1032 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO—Malaysian Ambassador to Japan Mohamed Khatib said in an interview with KYODO news service on Thursday that an East Asian Economic grouping, proposed last December by Prime Minister Mahathir would reinforce the global free trade system and be beneficial for all countries which depend on such a system.

He said the principal objective of next month's scheduled visit to Japan by Malaysian Minister of International Trade and Industry Rafidah Aziz is to brief Japanese officials on the proposal and to seek their support for it.

The following is an excerpt from the Ambassador's written answers to questions about Mahathir's initiative.

Question. What are the principal objectives of the East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG) proposed by Prime Minister Mahathir? Is it, as generally believed, aimed at boosting the clout of Asian nations in international trade negotiating arenas such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)?

Answer. The EAEG proposal reinforces Malaysia's commitment to multilateralism. We believe that the grouping can generate the necessary push toward a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Ultimately, the objective is to promote a strong and cohesive voice among East Asian countries on trade and economic matters so that we can collectively contribute to the strengthening of the multilateral system.

Question. Is the EAEG intended to rival other regional trade blocs, such as the fully integrated EC and the proposed Pan-American Trade Zone?

Answer. The EAEG is not intended to be a trade bloc. On the contrary, Malaysia has consistently opposed trade blocs.

Question. Are there any concerns that establishing a similar regional trade zone in Asia could strengthen the trend toward regionalism, and its natural corollary—protectionism?

Answer. The EAEG as envisaged will be GATT consistent, in particular article 24. Moreover, it is intended to complement ASEAN links with the outside world, be it with individual countries or groups of countries.

Question. Are you not concerned about antagonizing the U.S. by excluding it from membership?

Answer. The question of antagonizing the U .S. does not arise as the EAEG will comprise countries of the East Asian region. U.S.- East Asian links will continue to be promoted within the context of U.S.-ASEAN dialogue as well as with the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) process.

Question. How do you assess the reactions so far from other ASEAN members to the proposal? And that from Japan?

Answer. ASEAN countries have been supportive of the proposal. We will be meeting soon to discuss the proposal further. We have not as yet approached Japan formally on the proposal.

Question. The U.S. has already made it clear that it is not quite happy about the idea. Do you think the EAEG can come to pass without U.S. approval?

Answer. We have actually been getting mixed signals from the U.S. on the idea. In fact, lately there have been more positive pronouncements from Europe and America. Perhaps, when our objectives are clearly understood, the EAEG would be acceptable.

Trade Officials in 'Quandary'

OW2103120091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 21 Mar 91

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 KYODO—Malaysia's recent proposal to knit East Asian countries into a regional trade group has thrown Tokyo trade officials into a diplomatic quandary.

They are concerned that building up another regional trade zone could give an unintended boost to a global trend toward regionalism, and increase protectionism, while putting further strain on relations with the United States, which would be excluded from membership.

But, an official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Japan will find it difficult to reject the proposal if Asian countries call in unison for participation in the scheme.

"Skepticists exist in the government who view the proposal as quite a dangerous diplomatic game, but we don't want to mar the relations with Asian countries by refusing it," said Koji Matsui, deputy director of MITI's office for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The so-called East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), first mooted by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in December last year, is aimed at gaining more leverage in trade negotiating arenas such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

It is apparent from his recent speech at an international conference in Bali that the idea originates from Mahathir's anxiety that the European Community and the U.S. are moving toward establishing protectionist trade blocs, and his indignation about their "economic arm twisting."

"The erstwhile free traders of the West are opting for a controlled international marketing system," Mahathir said at the conference.

"To stop the slide and to preserve free trade the countries in East Asia...must at least speak with one voice," he added.

To allay concerns that such a group might become a virtual trade bloc, he was quick to point out that the EAEG is consistent with the GATT, Uruguay Round and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, and will not undermine these trade regimes.

"Malaysia is watching the EC's move toward a single market and the U.S. ambition of building a Pan-American Free Trade Zone with a strong sense of crisis," said Toshio Asakura, director of the Overseas Market Information Division at the semigovernmental Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO). Asakura spent nearly four years in Malaysia since 1983 to 1987.

To Japanese officials, however, trying to gain bargaining clout in multilateral trade negotiations by forming a regional trade group seems to be a risky business.

"The Americans and Europeans would undoubtedly see the new group as intended to rival their own trade zones, and that could strengthen their protectionist stance," a MITI official said.

Washington, taking the brave step of forming a free trade zone with Mexico, which may threaten U.S. jobs because of cheaper Mexican labor, has already made it clear that it is not quite happy with the EAEG idea, as it may follow the path of EC protectionism.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost said at the Bali Conference that he doubts the wisdom of fashioning "an arrangement which could encourage economic rivalry between Tokyo and Washington."

"The U.S. wants to make Japan shoulder an increasingly large portion of the burden of playing as a major power in the Asian region, but it is not yet ready to allow Tokyo to take the leadership role," MITI's Matsui said.

Some Japanese officials, however, see the scheme having potential for Japan to try its wings as a leader in the region.

"Why should we always be running around trying to satisfy Washington," another MITI official said, adding this proposal could be a good first step toward Japan's true leadership in the region.

"We are forward looking about the proposal although it is still too vague for Japan to make any official reaction," said Susumu Yamagami of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau.

Malaysia expects Japan to support the proposal.

"Japan's active participation is essential for the realization of the idea, and we really hope Japan acts more like a leader in the region" said Mohamed Khatib, Malaysian Ambassador to Japan.

But a majority of Tokyo bureaucrats feel adopting a cautious strategy is in their best interests.

"We don't want to stick our neck out over such a sensitive issue just when Japan's role, or lack of it, in both the GATT, Uruguay Round and the Gulf War are being criticized," said MITI's Matsui.

"We should at least wait for the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries to reach a consensus over the issue until we decide our attitude," he said.

Some ASEAN members, Indonesia in particular, are reportedly cautious about throwing their weight behind the proposal.

But Ambassador Khatib is quite confident that the EAEG will gain full backing from the ASEAN members in the near future, and the group will eventually become a reality.

"The Europeans have their own trade group. The Americans have their own. Why can't we?" Said Khatib.

"I don't see any reason why anybody should object to this idea," he said.

Mongolia

MSDP Seeks Socialist International Membership

OW2103183491 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1704 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 20 Mar (OANA-MONTSAME)—The MSDP [Mongolian Social-Democratic Party] will become a member of the Socintern, announced B. Batbayar, MSDP leader, in his interview to a MONTSAME correspondent. B. Batbayar has participated in the meeting of the social-democratic parties' leaders, which have taken place in Sydney (Australia).

The representative of many social-democratic parties and movements, including the MSDP which aren't the Socintern members, have taken part in the Sydney meeting. "We've already handed in an application of our party's membership or the Socialist International. And in my speech at the meeting I raised this question again. Willi Brandt, president of the Socialist International, has told me that the question on the MSDP membership would be discussed at the forthcoming congress of the organization, said B. Batbayar.

As the MSDP chairman said, the social-democratic parties' leaders has regarded their own political course on the world arena as of paramount importance at the Sydney meeting. The participants of the meeting have focused their attention also on the questions concerning economic and political progress in the countries of Asia and the Pacific region, situation in the Persian Gulf and the South Africa.

The Socialist International will celebrate its 40th anniversary in June 1991 in Istanbul. The delegation of the Mongolian Social- Democratic Party is invited to the celebrations, B. Batbayar said.

Move to Market Economy Reflected in Art

OW2103183991 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1711 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 20 Mar (OANA-MONTSAME)—Mongolia is shifting to market economy. New trends appearing in the country are reflected in the art, writes the newspaper "ARDYN ERH". It carries a selection of letters of cultural workers: actors and musicians who write about the present situation in our theatres, ensembles and other scenic collectives, especially in provincial ones. Today agricultural farms stopped financing the soum's (province district) cultural establishments and thus a cultural service of population has practically stopped, writes the paper. Unreasoned reduction of staffs in aymag (province) theatres and the value of person's creative activity in tugriks lower the quality of entertainment art and accordingly reduce a number of spectators in a hall, stresses one of the readers. A sad state of things in central and local cultural establishments demands its immediate settlement, runs the paper.

MONTSAME Carries 20 Mar Press Review

OW2103184191 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1720 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 20 Mar (OANA-MONTSAME)—The newspaper "ARDYN ERH" informs about the beginning of the third session of the State Small Hural of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] with 83 percent of attendence quorum of its members. After having adopted the order of the matter on its agenda the session has proceeded to the discussion of a draft law on baking activities. At the sitting a subdepartment on questions of local hurals under the permanent committee of state management was set up.

According to the newspaper, the MPR Government has adopted a resolution on the work of the newspaper "ARDYN ERH" - central organ of the state. It was decided to provide it with a space for its printing office and the staff and the wage fund for its editorialship were approved. The government has adopted a status for honoured government diploma. The diploma represents the highest award of the MPR Government.

"ARDYN ERH" publishes the interview granted by S. Boldbaatar, minister for trade and industry to its correspondent that touches upon difficulties occured during the last period in the trade relations between Mongolia and USSR. S. Boldbaatar points out that despite the agreement on intergovernmental level, trade between the two countries since the beginning of this year is on a standstill. We hope that the trade between the two countries has [word indistinct], but only faces a temporary stagnation, said the minister.

The newspaper publishes an address by N. Urtnasan, MPR minister for education to the leaders of state and administrative bodies, to the teachers and to all citizens in which he stresses that at present thousands of children are outside the secondary schools which could harm the level of general education attained by the population. The minister calls the leadership of state and administrative bodies, teachers and citizens to display constant care for children's education, improvement of the level of knowledge and skill of the working people.

The newspaper publishes articles referring to the intellectual and moral values, necessity for the cultural and art organizations to pay growing attention to those serious difficulties being faced due to the absence of relevant funds and means thereon.

The newspaper publishes an article by a journalist T. Wanchigdorj which raises the problem on the importance of making use of cartage, horse and camel under the present conditions of fuel shortage.

The trade union newspaper "HODOLMOR" publishes an article written by Y. Chinbat, secretary of the Central Council of the Federation of Mongolian Trade Unions. He emphasizes that under the conditions of monopoly of one party in the society namely the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party], the Mongolian trade unions were converted into a state organ in which prevailed were administrative methods of work, but this could by no means serve a foundation for negating its role in the preceeding years. Y. Chinbat speaks about the renewal of trade union activities, about its cooperation with different political parties and stresses the tendency of the growth of professional trade unions.

The newspaper publishes a passage from a poet T. Ochirhuu about meetings with artistic and cultural workers of foreign countries devoted to the well-known Czech scientist and Mongolist Irji Shima. Recently he has been appointed as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Chzech and Slovakia to the MPR.

The newspaper of the state and government bodies of the Mongolian capital "ULAANBAATAR" informs that the executive board of the people's hural of the city has launched a two-stage emulation on the town improvement erected to the 70th anniversary of the Mongolian people's revolution. The recent sitting of the city executive board has established an order of selling flats on their estimate cost and lands were released for the construction of individual houses for citizens. A decision on organising small and medium size economies as well as tackling the social problems of the population of the Bayantal region of the capital was adopted.

The newspaper publishes an interview by Zai Sichi, one of the leaders of light industry of the Inner Mongolian Autonomus Region of the PR [People's Republic] of China who is on a visit to the MPR to disscuss questions concerning Chinese and Mongolian cooperation including the establishment of small-scale enterprises. He points out that an agreement has been reached to establish a joint venture in two aymags namely a brick factory and a cement and lime enterprise. It is forseen in the future to build economic on production of dental pastes, papers and to erect other enterprises.

North Korea

Red Cross Spokesman on South's Letter Refusal

SK2203111391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Spokesman of C.C. [Central Committee], DPRK Red Cross Society Interviewed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society was interviewed by KCNA today after the South Korean Red Cross on March 21 failed to take over letters of our side addressed to the co-chairmen of the South Korean General Federation of National Artists and the Chairmen of the National Teachers Union, the South Korean Federation of Women's Organizations and the Korean National Council of Women of South Korea, refusing to convey them to the addressees.

The spokesman told KCNA that by refusing again to convey the letters of our side to the four organizations of South Korea, following its refusal March 7 to convey letters of our side's public organizations to the National Council of Trade Unions, the National Federation of Peasants Associations, the National Council of Student Representatives and the National Council of Representatives of Youth Organizations of South Korea, the South Korean Red Cross greatly disappointed the people in the North and the South who want to surmount the difficulties lying in the way of peace and peaceful reunification of the country through nongovernmental dialogues and contacts.

He said:

The South Korean authorities manipulated the Red Cross organization of South Korea to refuse again under unreasonable pretexts to take over the letters of our side's public organizations for nongovernmental dialogues and negotiations for reunification, ignoring the usage that it had performed the mission of correspondence between the North and the South. This is an unjustifiable act which can be done only by those who do not want dialogues between the North and the South or peace and reunification of the country.

By refusing each time to convey letters of our side's public organizations addressed to civilian organizations of South Korea for independent nongovernmental dialogues between the North and the South, the South Korean authorities clearly revealed once again their anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification position in blocking the reunification dialogues between the people in the North and the South and taking the road of war and permanent division. If the South Korean authorities continue to go against the desire and will of the nation to make the 1990s a decade of reunification, they will have to face a severe judgement by the nation.

In conclusion, the spokesman urged the South Korean Red Cross not to follow any longer the South Korean authorities who are rushing toward self-destruction, estranged from the nation.

'Chemical Warfare' Preparations in South Viewed

SK2203055691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Sinister Intention of Aggressor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the sinister intention of the U.S. imperialists to step up the preparations for chemical warfare in South Korea.

THE WASHINGTON POST said that a U.S. military intelligence service reportedly included South Korea in the list of countries and regions "capable of offensive chemical warfare" in its annual report to the lower house of Congress some days ago, though the Commerce Department excluded South Korea from the list. This means that raw materials and equipment for chemical weapons can freely be sold to South Korea, the newspaper added.

The news analyst says:

It is as clear as noonday which is true and which is false in the report of THE WASHINGTON POST.

It is an open secret that besides the deployment of more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists have built about ten toxic gas plants and produced chemical weapons in South Korea for another war against the North.

This being the fact, why did the U.S. Commerce Department drop South Korea from the list of the countries and regions "capable of offensive chemical warfare"?

This was intended to step up preparations for chemical warfare against the North by continuing to introduce raw materials and equipment for chemical weapons into South Korea in secrecy in face of protests and condemnation from the Korean people and the world's people.

As is already known, the U.S. imperialists have drawn up the operation plan to use nuclear and chemical weapons in case they unleash a new war against the North.

It must never go unnoticed that the U.S. imperialists revealed their intention to freely ship raw materials and equipment for chemical weapons into South Korea at a time when they openly oppose the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and plan to bring a larger amount of uptodate weapons and equipment into South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists must refrain from introducing new mass destruction weapons and equipment into South Korea, stop all war games and pull their troops, nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons out of South Korea.

ROK UN Membership Campaign 'Unjustifiable'

SK2203105991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must give up at once their unjustifiable campaign to "enter the United Nations" seeking a permanent division of the nation, demands MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today.

Recalling that the newly-appointed South Korean permanent observer in the United Nations recently made his appearance at the UN Headquarters and said South Korea would officially send in an application for UN membership in a few months, the news analyst says: Under the condition of our divided country the question of UN membership should be resolved in such a manner as to represent the will and interests of the entire nation through a debate within the Korean nation.

The South Korean authorities, however, are getting overheated in this matter, peddling it overseas and calling at the UN Headquarters. This vividly reveals their separatist and anti-reunification stand.

As far back as in the early 1970's the South Korean ruling group declared the creation of "two Koreas" its policy and came out with "simultaneous entry of the North and the South into the UN," the "unilateral UN membership" of South Korea, and the like and are now making a desperate bid for "UN membership".

In their ever-undisguised campaign for "UN membership", the South Korean authorities seek to make the division of the country a fait accompli by having "two Koreas" recognized in the international community.

It is clear that if the North and the South of Korea enter the UN separately, it would transfer the present state of confrontation to the UN arena.

This will not only impair the dignity of the nation at the UN, the two parts wrangling over internal affairs, but also make national reunification complicate and delay it.

The South Korean authorities' hectic drive for "UN membership" at a time when the reunification of the country is drawing near, the reunification which the fellow countrymen cry for when they meet and part with each other, will be recorded in history as a criminal act of throwing a wet blanket over the fervor of the fellow countrymen for reunification, shunning the reality.

U.S. Moves To Reinforce South Forces Scorned

SK2103050691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1148 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "For What Purpose Are They Planing to Reinforce Their Armed Forces?"]

[Text] According to a news report, RisCassi, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces occupying South Korea, attended an open hearing on the so-called military strategy and operation of the regional defense commands, which was held by the U.S. Senate's Armed Service Committee on 13 February.

At the hearing, while recklessly talking about us, he stressed that aggression forces should be reinforced on a large scale in South Korea.

He said that because the U.S. forces are deployed in the Gulf area on a large scale, it is difficult to immediately support the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea in case of emergency. Saying that it is necessary to map out a strategy as a way of more effectively repelling the North's military forces, the wretch raved that military weapons and equipment, whose powers were demonstrated in the Gulf area, will be introduced there.

This openly shows the hidden intention of the U.S. imperialists trying to introduce more modern weapons of destruction into South Korea under the pretext of the danger of a fictitious southward invasion. Thus, this is a vicious challenge to our people and the world peace-loving people calling for the U.S. aggression forces to withdraw from South Korea as soon as possible.

It is evident to everyone that there exists only the danger of a northward invasion, not the danger of a southward invasion, on the Korean peninsula.

We have declared that we have no intention of invading the South on more than one occasion. In addition, we have never, so far, invaded the South.

We put forward the proposal that the armed forces of the North and the South should be reduced drastically for a durable peace on the Korean peninsula, not reinforcing the military forces. Also, we showed an example of unilaterally cutting our military forces by 100,000 troops.

Nonetheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are further reinforcing military forces instead of reducing them. Still worse, they are more viciously adhering to a war move to invade the North.

Judging from today's prevailing urgent situation, it is needless to say that there exists only the danger of a northward invasion by the U.S. imperialist and the puppets on the Korean peninsula.

By introducing into South Korea the enormous aggression forces from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are conducting the Team Spirit-91 war exercise to invade the North. Nonetheless, they clamor about someone else's military forces and the danger of a southward invasion. This is preposterous.

Under the pretext of the danger of a fictitious southward invasion, the U.S. imperialists are trying to introduce more modern weapons of mass destruction into South Korea. This is well proven by RisCassi's remarks that the military weapons and equipment, whose powers were demonstrated in the Gulf war, should be introduced into South Korea to defend the North's attack.

RisCassi's babbles are a jargon to inflict scourges on our people as they recklessly committed mass destruction and murder by mobilizing modern weapons of mass destruction in the Gulf war.

The U.S. imperialists have turned South Korea into a nuclear forward base, the largest in the Far East, by deploying approximately 40,000 aggression forces and 1,000 nuclear weapons of various types there. Not being content with this, they are trying to introduce into South Korea, military weapons and equipment, whose powers were demonstrated in the Gulf war. This once again shows the color of the warmongers running wild.

At the time when the U.S. ruling class, haughtier than ever before, is trying to find another flash point for a new war, the commander of the U.S. imperialists' aggression forces occupying South Korea babbled such remarks. Thus, we cannot but regard his remarks as grave.

Prior to the babbles of RisCassi, Solomon, U.S assistant secretary of state, officially revealed the U.S. stand that, to keep nuclear deterrent forces in South Korea, it opposes the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

This clearly shows that the U.S. imperialists regard the Korean peninsula as important in seeking to realize their ambition of world supremacy. This also clearly shows that they are trying to ignite the flash point of a new war on the Korean peninsula, and that they are trying to use the Team Spirit-91 war exercise for such a purpose.

The U.S. imperialists are babbling about cold war and arms reduction. However, on the contrary, they are actually running wild, reinforcing nuclear forces and other military forces, and rushing headlong toward the road of a war. And, they are trying to surprise us by means of strength.

Facts clearly reveal the wretches' murderous nature, that the U.S. imperialists would use any means to achieve their aggressive goal, and that they would not hesitate to annihilate our nation.

The U.S. policy of strength, however, cannot work with our people.

Our people keenly watch the wretches' war moves with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance.

The U.S. imperialists should know that their reckless war moves will expedite their destruction, and act with discretion. They should withdraw all aggression forces, including the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons, from South Korea.

Only then, will durable peace be guaranteed on the Korean peninsula. This will be good for the United States, too.

20 Mar Team Spirit Exercises Reported

SK2203050791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 22 Mar 91

["U.S. Imperialists and South Korean Puppets Engaged in Frantic Military Exercises"— KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists staged another round of joint nuclear air strike exercises aimed at a surprise attack on targets in the strategic depth of the northern half of Korea on March 20, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the nuclear war game in the air above Anmyon Island and Kunsan of South Korea were formations of nuclear-capable "B-52" strategic bombers and tens of nuclear-capable "F-15" and "F-16" fighter-bombers based in the Pacific, supported by AWACS "E-3A" based in Kadena, Japan.

On the same day the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a landing operation in the coastal sea of Pohang similar to the coastal area of the northern half of Korea under the cover of formations of "AV-8" VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes.

The U.S. imperialists staged an air-lifting operation, sending formations of "C-5," "C-141" and "C-130" transport planes loaded with military supplies from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific to Osan Air Base, and the South Korean puppets a ground attack operation simulating northward invasion under the cover of formations of "F-5" fighter-bombers in Wonju and Umsong areas.

On the other hand, the U.S. imperialists let "U-2" and "RC-12" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance and tactical reconnaissance planes fly along the Military Demarcation Line to conduct vicious espionage on ground and air targets in the area of our side.

Some 500 military planes of different types flew in the sky above South Korea that day for the "Team Spirit 91" military manoeuvres.

Commentator Denounces No Tae-u, Team Spirit

SK2203112891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "An Act That Leads the Situation to the Brink of War"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are now leading the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise to a more adventurous and dangerous stage. According to a report, the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique on 19 March conducted a large-scale river crossing exercise and an emergency runway landing and take-off exercise.

The Paengma unit and the Pulmuri unit of the puppet army staged a frantic surprise general offensive river-crossing operation on the South Han River simulating a northward invasion at dawn on that day, with the support of the artillery fire power and planes. At the same time, the puppet army Maengho unit staged an ammunition resupply exercise. Positioning in the rear of the South Han River at the point from which it was supposed to wage an attack, the Maengho unit initiated a maneuver for a northward offensive.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets conducted an emergency runway landing and take-off exercise of the nuclear-carrying F-16's and F-15's on the road between Yongju and Punggi, North Kyongsang Province, for the fighters to make repeated sorties and for the troops and equipment to be transported swiftly.

Earlier than this, on 16 and 17 March, they staged war rehearsals, such as a combined nuclear aerial strike exercise aimed at a preemptive strike on the major targets in the strategic inland areas of the northern half of the Republic, a large-scale combined aerial strike exercise, an exercise to support the ground attack operation, and a commando operation. For the Team Spirit war rehearsal on 16 and 17 March, some 1,240 military planes of various types flew over South Korea.

Meanwhile, on 20 March, traitor No Tae-u staged the farce of inspecting the puppet army units participating in the Team Spirit war rehearsal, and inspired war fever, raving that the Team Spirit exercise realistically proves that the resolve of the South Korea and the United States for security cooperation is firm.

The situation developing in South Korea shows that the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise is being conducted at a more frenzied stage. This is an intolerable crime that leads the situation in our country to a dangerous phase of war.

As is already known, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, who have entered into the full-fledged stage of the Team Spirit-91 war rehearsal with the landing operation in Pohang, have conducted the war rehearsal, such as the river-crossing operation, commando operation, and surprise-attack strike operation, moving the vast aggression armed forces toward the north. By these criminal maneuvers of theirs, vast aggression armed forces are densely assembled along the Military Demarcation Line and the areas near it, and there is no guarantee that the various operational exercises, which are conducted with the aggression armed forces densely assembled in the narrow area, will not be turned into a war. This really reveals the offensive and aggressive nature of the Team Spirit-91 war rehearsal and thoroughly exposes the deceitfulness of their allegations.

What should not be overlooked is the fact that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have been continuously conducting the nuclear aerial strike exercises simulating a northward invasion during the Team Spirit war rehearsal. Entering into an offensive full-fledged stage of the exercise, they brought into South Korea the nuclear-carrying B-52 strategic bombers from Guam Island on 13, 16, 17, and 18 March, staging nuclear strike exercises.

The U.S. imperialists are increasing the proportion of the aerial nuclear strike exercises during this war rehearsal period in an unprecedented manner. This realistically proves that they are determined to wage a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula by all means, and that they will not hesitate to completely destroy our nation to realize their filthy aggressive scheme.

The situation being thus, traitor No Tae-u visited the puppet army units participating in the Team Spirit-91 war rehearsal, inspiring war fever. This is an intolerable crime like fanning the fire that has been kindled. Traitor No Tae-u—who abandoned the dialogue with his fellow countrymen, conducts a war rehearsal against his fellow countrymen in collusion with foreign forces, and inspires war fever, visiting the forefront areas and praising to the sky the U.S. imperialists' war maneuvers—is a traitor who gave up being a Korean, and is a vicious warmonger who seeks war rather than peaceful reunification.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets wish to get something out of the reckless war maneuvers, but this is a foolish act. The U.S. imperialists and the

South Korean puppets should be clearly aware that the road to war is the road to hasten their ruin, and they should act with discretion. If the U.S. imperialists continue to follow the road to war despite our repeated warnings, they shall be held totally responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom. Those who enjoy fire will be killed by it. The U.S. imperialists should not act rashly, thoughtlessly, and recklessly.

Workers Warn War Fanatics Doomed to Destruction

SK2203001691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2221 GMT 21 Mar 91

["War Fanatics Are Doomed to Destruction, Warn Working People in Northern Half of Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—Rallies were held at industrial establishments and on cooperative farms in the northern half of Korea to denounce the "Team Spirit '91" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

The participants in the rallies said that no matter how desperately the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling quarters may try to provoke another war and create "two Koreas", they can never break the will of the Korean people for reunification, warning that the war fanatics are doomed to destruction.

Speakers at a rally of employees held at the February 8 vinalon complex expressed indignation at the "Team Spirit '91" war game that plunged the situation on the Korean peninsula into an extremely dangerous point where a war may break out any moment.

The joint military exercises now being staged frantically, entailing an extreme danger, vividly show how shameful and vicious the U.S. imperialist aggressors have become in their ambition to invade the North, they said. History and the nation, the speakers warned, will never pardon the criminal war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling quarters.

At a rally of employees of the Yanggang Provincial mining complex, the speakers cited historical data to expose that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have escalated their war games despite our people's repeated protests and accusations.

The U.S. imperialists must not instigate the puppets to war and confrontation but immediately stop the "Team Spirit '91" joint military exercises and get out of South Korea taking along all aggressive armed forces and nuclear weapons, they strongly demanded.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Chinese Reunification

SK2203053191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Noble Desire of Chinese People"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—Taiwan is a part and parcel of the Chinese territory and the reunification of China must be achieved at an early date, stresses NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary supporting the position of the Communist Party and Government of China on the reunification of China.

Referring to the interview recently granted by a leading member of the department concerned of China on the "program for China's reunification" adopted by the Taiwan authorities, the commentary says:

The interview clearly expressed the principled position of the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the reunification issue. This shows the sincere efforts of the party and Government of China to correctly guide the efforts of the Chinese people for national reunification.

The Communist Party, the Government and the people of China have consistently made vigorous efforts to reunify the country on the principle of defending one China.

The policies of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems" laid down by the Communist Party of China are absolutely reasonable and just ones proceeding from the realities of China.

The Chinese Government has suggested that after peaceful reunification, different political, social and economic systems be left intact on both sides of the Taiwan Straits within one country, with neither side swallowing up the other. Proceeding from the principle of defending one China, it has opposed the independence of Taiwan and rejected the attempts to create "two Chinas" or "two governments in one country."

This position of the Chinese people on the country's reunification has enjoyed active support from the world's people.

The Korean and Chinese peoples actively support each other in their struggle, with common desire to reunify their countries.

We sincerely hope that the Chinese people will reunify their country peacefully as soon as possible.

Kim Il-song Receives Letter From Gorbachev

SK2203070291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the DPRK, received a reply letter from Comrade Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in response to his sending a congratulatory message on the occasion of Comrade Gorbachev's 60th birthday.

Film Show, Gathering Arranged With Soviets

*SK140306[illegible]91 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0509 GMT [illegible] Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society arranged a film show and a cocktail party Wednesday on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

Invited there were Soviet Ambassador to Korea Alexandr Kapto and his embassy officials.

O Mun-han, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, and other officials concerned and working people in the city were present.

The participants saw a Korean-Soviet co-produced film "From Spring to Autumn."

Then a cocktail party followed.

Indonesian Parliament Delegates Tour Mangyongdae

*SK2203051991 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 1300 GMT 17 Mar 91*

[Text] The Indonesian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Saiful Sulun visited Mangyongdae. The guests who toured the home listened to how the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song moved toward the revolutionary road at a young age to achieve great results in the fatherland liberation and of the impressive meeting with his grandparents. They also looked around the historical sites greatly impressed. The guests took a photograph in front of the home to commemorate the visit to Mangyongdae.

The delegation visited the Chuche Ideology Tower and the Arch of Triumph. After touring the Chuche Ideology Tower the head of the delegation said as follows: We came to deeply understand the chuche idea which is the basis for building the state of the DPRK. The Korean people achieved rapid progress in all fields because they regarded the chuche idea as their guiding principle. The chuche idea pioneers the people's fate and is a philosophy which elucidates their future.

After touring the Arch of Triumph the head of the delegation said that this Arch of Triumph which symbolizes the struggle achievements of His Excellency President Kim Il-song is very significant and was magnificently built by the method of structural art. He also said that this structure will convey His Excellency President's great struggle achievements for a long period of time.

The delegation also visited the Sohae Flood Gate. The head of the delegation said that he was deeply impressed by the magnificence of the flood gate and stated that this flood gate is a magnificent structure which strengthens the nation's might and contributes to the promotion of the people's well-being. He also said that due to the wise leadership of His Excellency President and the chuche idea, it was possible for the Korean people to carry out the large-scale work of blocking the sea and of vigorously raising the magnificent flood gate.

The delegation also visited the educational, cultural, and health organizations in Pyongyang and Panmunjom.

Send Message to Kim Il-song

*SK2203042991 Pyongyang Domestic Service
in Korean 2200 GMT 19 Mar 91*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the president of the DPRK, received a thank you message from Deputy Speaker Saiful Sulun, head of the Indonesian parliamentary delegation, upon his departure.

The thank you message is as follows:

To His Excellency President Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK:

Your Excellency President. My wife, myself, and all the members of the delegation who accompanied me express deep thanks to Your Excellency for warmly welcoming us and holding friendly talks with us during our stay in your beautiful country.

During our visit, the delegation and I were received by Your Excellency President, and also met with the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, the vice premier and foreign minister, and the chairman of the External Economic Committee, and exchanged opinions.

We also toured various construction facilities in the DPRK. Through the visit to your country, the delegation and I came to have a correct understanding of the progress of your country which was achieved under the wise leadership of Your Excellency President and of the promotion of the Korean people's well-being.

The visit to your country by the delegation and I contributed to further having close friendly relations between the two countries.

I hope for the long life of Your Excellency President and once again express my deepest thanks. I pay my respects.

Saiful Sulun, deputy speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Indonesia

19 March 1991 Pyongyang

Kim Tal-hyon at UNDP Commissioning Ceremony

*SK2203053391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0441 GMT 22 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—An object for the improvement of rice crop of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and an object for the assistance to the Pyongyang Vegetable Scientific Research Institute were commissioned in accordance with the assistant program between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the UNDP [United Nations Development Program]. [sentence as received]

With the commissioning of these objects, the Rice Research Institute of the Academy has become able to improve the crops including rice and markedly cut the period of their nursing through the newly-built computerized greenhouse.

The Pyongyang Vegetable Scientific Research Institute, equipped with up-to-date equipment for tissue culture of vegetables and various kinds of measuring equipment, will make a contribution to the improvement of varieties of vegetables and the expansion of their production.

A commissioning ceremony was held Thursday.

Present there were Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the External Economy Commission, and other officials concerned.

Resident representative Henning Karcher and officials of the liaison office of the United Nations Development Programme here were present.

Supreme People's Assembly Meeting Set for 11 Apr

SK2103231791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Decision by Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] on convening the SPA released on 21 March in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] The Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] decides as follows:

The second meeting of the Ninth SPA of the DPRK will be convened on 11 April 1991 in Pyongyang.

Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA

21 March 1991

SPA Deputies To Register 9-10 Apr

SK2103233391 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Public announcement by the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] on convening the SPA released 21 March in Pyongyang—read by announcer]

[Text] The Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] informs deputies to the SPA that the second meeting of the Ninth SPA will be convened on 11 April 1991 in Pyongyang.

The registration of deputies will take place on 9-10 April at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Standing Committee of the DPRK SPA

21 March 1991

Kim Il-song at Samsok District Cooperative Farm

SK2203050691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the Samsok District cooperative farm on March 20.

He went round the farm to acquaint himself with preparations for this year's farming and the sowing of rice seeds on the cold-beds and expressed great satisfaction over the fact that the agricultural working people have not only successfully carried out the work of increasing the fertility of land including the spread of humus soil over maize fields and the production of manure in hearty response to the party's farming-first policy but also are qualitatively sowing seeds in spring.

He said that what is most important in a year's farming is to sow seeds well in spring and the sowing of rice seeds on the cold-beds and other sowing should be done qualitatively in time to meet scientific and technical requirements.

He taught that the Samsok District cooperative farm should turn out more agricultural produce this year, too, on the basis of good experiences in the past period when it harvested a large quantity of grains, vegetables and industrial crops through the rational utilization of arable land.

He taught that the principle of right crop in right area and right crop in right time should be strictly observed in farming and all farming done on a scientific and technical basis as required by the chuche method of farming.

Saying that in order to completely free co-op famers from hard work all farm work from sowing to harvesting should be mechanized, he taught that they must follow the model family of Pak Chong-kuk and Chong Yon-hwa at the Yongho branch of the Yongyon County integrated farm and step up the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture.

Pointing out that our intensive agriculture requires the concrete organisation of farming, he taught that all the functionaries in the field of agriculture must further intensify their guidance over farming.

The entire farmers of the Samsok District cooperative farm are hardening their determination to carry through the on-the-spot teachings of President Kim Il-song and bring about innovations in sowing in spring so as to have a bumper harvest again this year.

Bumper Harvest of Kelp, Mussel Reported

SK1303155191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 13 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The culture farms in the East and West Seas of Korea had a bumper harvest of kelp and mussel.

According to data available at the Fishery Commission, kelp of 11,500 more tons and mussel of 2,800 more tons than in the same period last year have been produced.

The Pyonghwa Shallow-Sea Culture Farm brought in thousands of tons of kelp this year.

The Pupo and Ongjin Shallow-Sea Culture Farms thinned out hundreds of tons of kelp every day.

The Kyongpo Shallow-Sea Culture Farm produced more than one thousand tons of mussel this year and is now thinning out mussel.

Anniversary of Myongsin School Commemorated

SK2103051491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0436 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—The 75th anniversary of the Foundation of the Myongsin School was commemorated on the spot on March 20.

The Myongsin School was founded by Kim Hyong-chik, an indomitable revolutionary fighter and an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle in Korea, in the spring of 1916 when he moved the theatre of his revolutionary activities from Mangyongdae to Ponghwa-ri.

It is situated in Ponghwa-ri, Kangdong County, over 30 kilometres east of Pyongyang.

Kim Hyong-chik, regarding education as an important component of the revolutionary work from the first days of his revolutionary activities, went to Ponghwa-ri and built the Myongsin School to bring up the younger generation as a reliable reserve force of the revolution.

He taught the students of the school the Korean language, spoken and written, and the Korean history and geography educating them to cherish national self-confidence and anti-Japanese patriotism.

Komdok Miners Overfulfill Production Quotas

SK1503002991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2141 GMT 14 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Production is on a steady increase at the Komdok mining complex, the leading lead and zinc ore producer of the country.

Entering March, the miners of the complex who overfulfilled the January and February assignments have doubled or trebled the daily output of lead and zinc as against the like period last year in terms of metal content. Giving precedence to capital and preparatory tunnelling, they are effecting innovations in ore mining and transport.

90 units of the complex had fulfilled their first quarterly plans or plans for the first half of the year ahead of schedule by the 10th of March.

Many units of the complex including the mining work-team of Kim Ung-ha at the youth pit of the July 1 branch mine had already honoured their commitments to the Third Seven-Year Plan.

Progress of Nampo Smelting Complex Reported

SK2203105791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1011 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—The Nampo smelting complex is one of Korea's leading nonferrous metallurgical bases.

The smeltery which had been insignificant before the liberation of the country was destroyed by the Japanese imperialists and reduced to ruins during the three-year Korean war ignited by the U.S. imperialists.

It has made a leaping progress after the ceasefire.

The workers of the complex rehabilitated and reconstructed the smelting system in a short postwar time and turned out molten iron.

During the five-year plan (1957-1960), they built the copper electrolyzing shop, the rare metal shop and the fertilizer shop and succeeded in nonferrous metal smelting with domestic fuel to further increase the independence of the metallurgical industry and nearly treble the gross industrial output value.

During the seven-year plan which began in 1961, they built a nonferrous metal rolling mill and began mass-producing rolled nonferrous metals and the complex has turned into a large nonferrous metallurgical base. The total industrial output value grew 2.6 times in this period.

The complex installed an automated furnace during the six-year plan (1971-1976). This meant a remarkable achievement in eliminating heat-affected and harmful labour.

During the plan, the fertilizer production capacity increased 4.4 times and the six-year plan was fulfilled one year or so ahead of the set time.

The complex's capacity of smelting major nonferrous metals including copper and zinc now is 4.6 times that in the mid-60's.

A large quantity of nonferrous metals are exported.

The complex encompasses the Taedaeri and other mines, a construction station, a spare parts factory and the Nampo College of Technology.

Pyongyang's Chinese Residents Help Build Tramway

SK2103051791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0425 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA)—Sai Zhongheng, chairman of the Central Committee of the Association of

Chinese Residents in Korea, and Chinese residents in Pyongyang Wednesday gave a helping hand in tramway construction.

The Chinese residents helped the soldiers of the unit of the Korean people's security forces to which Comrade Pak Chu-chil belongs who were accelerating the project under the far-reaching plan of the party and gave quantities of materials.

During the break constructors and Chinese residents sang Korean and Chinese songs and danced.

New Restaurants Open on Kwangbok Street

SK1503103791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 15 (KCNA)—New underground restaurants of peculiar style opened their doors in Kwangbok Street, Pyongyang.

The total floor space of Kwangbok underground restaurants Nos. 1, 2, and 3, is 8,900 square metres.

They are linked together by 400 metres long broad corridors decorated beautifully.

Those restaurants with a total of 600 seats are diversified in the room structures and service. Restaurant No. 1 consists of four dining rooms, where the Pyongyang cold noodle is mainly served as well as green bean pancake and rice with chicken soup.

Restaurant No. 2 also has four dining rooms. There chow mein is chiefly served with steamed meat dumplings. Beef casserole, scalloped soup and various cooling beverages are served at restaurant No. 3 with five dining rooms.

The dining rooms present fascinating scenes spreading panoramic views of spring with all kinds of flowers in full bloom, summer of thick foliage and autumn of scarlet-tinged leaves.

The customers spend joyous hours in these refreshing and cosy underground restaurants intoxicated by the man-made natural beauty.

There are the Hyangmallu Restaurant noted for its Korean national dishes and other oriental dishes and the Chongchun Restaurant, Chongchun Restaurant No. 2 and other public service bases, large and small, in the Kwangbok Street.

KCNA Review of Mar Pyongyang Press

SK2203055091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 22 (KCNA)—Papers here today give frontpage prominence to a report that the great leader President Kim Il-song gave on-the-spot guidance to the Samsok district cooperative farm in Pyongyang.

Carried in the press is a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Islamic new year in Iran.

NODONG SINMUN reports that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received a message from Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR and general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in reply to his congratulations on the latter's 60th birthday.

According to the press, gifts of the WPK Central Committee were conveyed to Yonpung, Ponghak and Sangso senior middle schools in Anju, South Pyongan Province, and thanks of the WPK Central Committee to the institute of the scientific experimental apparatus and the institute of chemical materials of the Hamhung branch of the academy of sciences.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN is a solidarity message to the WPK Central Committee from Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party of the United States, denouncing the "Team Spirit" maneuvers.

Appearing in the press are a decision and notice of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on the convocation of the second session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article dealing with the wise guidance of the great leader in developing Hukbosan fertilizer and its extensive use in agricultural production.

Econews of the press includes reports about the commissioning of the object [word as received] for the improvement of rice crop of the academy of agricultural sciences and the object of the Pyongyang vegetable scientific research institute in accordance with the assistance program between the DPRK and UNDP [UN Development Program], the progress of the construction of an oxygen plant of the February 8 vinalon complex and about the sowing of seed rice on cold beds on co-op farms.

Papers observe Day of Fishermen (March 22).

The DPRK ambassador to Guinea-Bissau paid a farewell call on the president of the State Council of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, says NODONG SINMUN.

Carried in the press is an "open letter to the whole people" issued by the Central Committee of the South Korean national Democratic Front on the "local assembly elections".

The press gives an account of an interview granted by Yi Son-pil and Kim Kwon-hui, young seamen of South Korea who came over to the North aboard a fishing boat, with home and foreign reporters.

Meetings denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises were held at industrial establishments and co-op farms in the northern half of the country, young men of South Korea attacked "American Cultural Centre", burnt the "tower of welcome" to officers and men participating in "Team Spirit" exercises erected in Suwon, and the U.S. imperialists and South Korean fascist ruling group staged a large-scale river-crossing operation and a landing and take-off exercise on an emergency air strip, says the press.

In a commentary NODONG SINMUN denounces the U.S. imperialists for continuing to secretly introduce materials and equipment of chemical weapons into South Korea and stepping up preparations for a chemical war against the North.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with a commentary denouncing the South Korean authorities' scheme for unilateral U.N. membership.

"Peace on the Korean Peninsula Is an Important Link of World Peace" is the title of an article of the paper.

According to NODONG SINMUN, Comrade Jiang Zemin inspected Hunan Province. The paper runs a commentary captioned "Noble Desire of Chinese People" in support of the interview granted by a leading member of the department concerned of China on a document of the Taiwan authorities.

World news columns of the paper include reports that the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam stressed that revolutionary publications should be guided by the party, the Egyptian president referred to the Palestinian problem, and an international conference on economic cooperation in the region south of Sahara was held.

The paper carries an article denouncing the Israeli aggressors' attempt to perpetuate their occupation of Golan Heights.

South Korea

Koreans in Japan Agree on Joint Cheering Squad

SK2203104191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0929 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, Japan, March 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—The pro-Seoul Mindan and pro-Pyongyang Chochongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] groups in Japan will jointly root for the united Korean table tennis team in the world championships in Chiba next month.

For the first time since Korea's liberation from Japan in 1945, the vice chairmen of the two groups met Friday. They agreed to form a joint cheer squad and organize a welcoming committee of eight people each and co-chair the committee.

The team song is Arirang, a traditional tune considered to describe Korean emotions, and slogans are in Korean, Japanese and English.

They will arrange welcoming ceremonies at airports, stations, and the joint training site, Nagano, and share the costs.

"We hope the joint rooting will advance the reunification of the Korean peninsula. So we refrain from spreading our ideologies and will abide by the agreement in good faith," they said in a joint statement.

Government To Begin Campaign for UN Membership

SK2103134591 Seoul YONHAP in English 1310 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to start an open publicity campaign to publicize the reasonability of South Korea's entry into the United Nations both in and out of the country, a senior foreign ministry official said Thursday.

South Korea has so far refrained from taking the issue to open international forum in an apparent bid not to embarrass North Korea, which is opposed to the South's formula for Korea's U.N. membership.

Yi Chong-pin, assistant foreign minister for political affairs, said, "The government, judging that there will be no countries but North Korea to oppose Seoul's entry into the United Nations, has decided to take an open and positive attitude in its contacts with friendly nations."

Yi said, "It is certain that a simultaneous entry into the world body by both South and North Korea will help promote peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Under this context, I believe, China is basically for our proposal."

"If China vetoes our membership, China's role in the international arena would inevitably be affected. If China is really in no mood to support it in light of its ties with North Korea, it can just abstain from voting," he said.

The South Korean officials have openly said that Seoul will push ahead with its effort to join the world body unilaterally this year regardless of North Korea's reaction.

South Korea wants Seoul and Pyongyang to join the United Nations simultaneously and separately while North Korea counterproposes that the two Koreas share a single seat.

Ministry Official Explains Plan for Joining UN

SK2203033091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0250 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea will shift to "open diplomacy" to publicize the rationality and propriety of its becoming a member of the United Nations this year, from its behind-the-scenes negotiations with China, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

"We will explain to our allies the imperative of our being a full U.N. member in an active and open manner, based on their responsiveness in international arenas," said Yi Chong-pin, assistant foreign minister for political affairs.

Noting that North Korea is the only nation in the world that still objects [to] admitting South Korea into the United Nations, Yi repeatedly said it was obvious to him that the entry of South and North Korea would help maintain peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

"In this context, I know China is basically in a position to consent to the two Korea's U.N. membership," he said. "If China vetoed our application for U.N. membership, it would be an automatic setback to its role in international society.

"I think China should at least abstain from voting if it cannot support our request for U.N. membership due to its long-standing friendly ties with the North Korea," he said.

"We are ready to accept an open debate with opposition parties of our U.N. policy," he said. "It is wrong to think that we can be a responsible member of the international community without U.N. membership."

As U.N. policy was somewhat twisted last year by argument over the simultaneous admission of South and North Korea despite the maturity of the international climate at the 45th U.N. General Assembly, the government will tell the people why U.N. membership is a good idea and will ask the opposition for help, Yi said.

Indirect Trade With North Surpasses 1990 Total

SK2103063291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (YONHAP)—Indirect trade between South and North Korea surpassed the total for last year on March 16, the National Unification Board said Thursday.

It tallied North-to-South trade at 21 million U.S. dollars as of March 16, up from 20 million dollars for 1990, and the amount in the opposite direction at 10 million dollars, more than double the 4.73 million dollars of last year. The jump was caused by industry's efforts to discover new items to trade and confidence-building since inter-Korean trade began in October 1988, a board official said.

There has still been no direct trade between the two Koreas, however, so most deals were arranged by agents in Hong Kong, Japan or China, he said.

Major import items were Alaskan pollack, cuttlefish and herbs. Exports were mostly paper, sugar and soap. Some of the deals were in the form of barter.

NSP Arrests Pro-North Student Group Members

SK2203105891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0923 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Six students were arrested Friday and charged with conspiracy against the state for plotting a socialist revolution and North Korean-led unification. The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said it was seeking 21 other members of the Chotong (National Reunification Promotion) group for leading anti-American, pro-North Korean campus activism.

The two-year-old Chotong group, following the North Korean line, sought unity of Korea under communism by violent revolution. It aimed at bringing together campus activists and was the guiding force behind Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], the largest student coalition in the country, NSP said.

Group Chief Kim Pyong-kwon, a 27-year-old Yonsei University graduate on the police wanted list, planned the secret dispatch of Yim Su-kyong to a youth festival in Pyongyang in 1989 with Chongdaehyop leaders, NSP said.

Chotong is one of four major leftist underground organizations formed in April 1989 by 50 fanatics from 10 Seoul universities. The group has cultivated nearly 300 members since then, operating three sections for publicity, general affairs and campus activities, NSP said.

It tried to send a number of students to North Korea last August and publicly showed banned North Korean films it acquired in Japan late last year. Members have passed out more than 2,000 copies of North Korean broadcasts in secret sales at bookstores, the intelligence agency said.

NSP also claimed collegians were infiltrating industry to stir labor activism, and estimated the number at 3,000 to 5,000 students.

ROK Envoy to Costa Rica on DPRK 'Sabotage'

PA2103022391 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Mar 91 p 4-A

[Text] The ROK Ambassador to Costa Rica, Chang-Keun Kim, said at a news conference on 7 March that individuals linked to the communist DPRK Government are trying to hurt ROK businessmen in our country through sabotage actions against their companies. Kim said that an ambassador from the DPRK was recently here to try to "hinder our actions and to sabotage our enterprises."

Kim also referred to an erroneous report that was published in the media on 12 February which said that a Korean businessman had shot one of his employees.

He added that the individual involved in that incident was a Chinese businessman who owns a factory at the industrial park in Cartago.

Ambassador Kim said that the erroneous reports were clarified on the 12 and 13 February television newscasts, and that LA REPUBLICA and other media sources published reports giving the correct nationality of the person involved in the case. Kim noted, however, the distribution of a document that was signed by several people, and considered by him to be "ridiculous" because of its ill- intentioned contents which insisted that the individual involved in the incident was a South Korean. Kim rejected this as "incorrect." Kim added that there is bad faith in this case, which is aimed at discrediting South Korean companies that are dedicated to working and maintaining good relations with their employees.

Kim noted that in Costa Rica—a country with which the ROK has maintained excellent relations—there are 13 South Korean factories, which export $40 million annually and employ 4,000 Costa Rican workers

Chinese-Korean Peddler Describes DPRK Travel

SK2103141691 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean Dec 90 pp 210-229

[By reporter Kim Tong-hyon: "Republic of Charcoal Trucks"; first graf is editor's note]

[Text] From 1983 until January 1990, Ms Yi Yon-hwa, not her real name, age 36, travelled on some two dozen occasions from her home in China's Jilin Province into North Korea's North Hamgyong Province, in the areas around Hoeryong, Musan, and Chongjin. Ms Yi is an itinerant peddler, taking clothing and everyday necessities into North Korea and selling them there for Alaskan pollack and squid which she then brings back to China. Ms Yi visited South Korea in 1990. The WOLGAN CHOSON magazine edited this verbal account of her experiences.

Purchased 300-Won Worth of Merchandise

I was born in China into an ethnic Korean family, and as long as I can remember I always wanted to visit Choson (North Korea). I couldn't seem to get the notion that Choson was my home out of my mind, partly, I guess, because my father was born in Sunchon in North Pyongan Province. I became a peddler in the early 1980's, even though I had graduated from high school in China. I went here and there all over the area around Jilin Province, buying items with good potential margins and selling them where I could justify the markup. I was doing fairly well in my business.

I had no really close relatives living in Choson, but one day in the early 1980's I ran into a distant relative at the home of an acquaintance. Consumed entirely with the inquisitive nature of the businesswoman, I took the relative back to my home, where I had been living since my recent marriage. At 45, my Choson "auntie" was considerably older than I. She lived in North Hamgyong Province's Musan and all but trembled with envy at my lifestyle. We experienced no great difficulty in our living standard in China, and I had fancy covers on the blankets and slips on my pillows. My shirttail Choson relative kept caressing the covers and cases, and I noticed she was perspiring.

I gave her a few gifts and asked her to invite me to Choson. My auntie was worried, though. She said, "You must be too concerned about food and clothing to take such a long trip." I brushed aside her concern, took down her address, and arranged that we would now be close relatives. We decided to make it second cousins. We exchanged letters a number of times after she returned to Choson, and I made plans to visit my cousin in Choson, submitting papers requesting permission from the Chinese Government for the visit.

I got permission to visit Choson in February 1983. My new husband was reluctant. "We can live without that money. Why do you want to go down there?" But my mind was firmly made up. I had seen dozens of business people who had done the Choson circuit and been hugely successful.

I selected my merchandise carefully. I got 300 won together and purchased items I heard had a high profit margin in Choson, things like clothes, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco. At that time a worker in China made 34 to 40 won per month, so 300 won was equivalent to almost a year's wage for a worker. My baggage included 10 cartons of "Juri" cigarettes, at 1.8 won each; articles of women's clothing, at one won or two won each; and white rice wine. I was very careful in selecting the apparel.

I had checked with others who had visited Choson to find out what kind of clothing sold well there. Choson women liked beads sewn on their clothing in a style popular in China 30 years before; they were partial to simple, primary colors; and they liked durable, lasting clothing. I heard that the most important thing was durability; you couldn't get any price at all for clothing that wasn't tough and durable. The Juri cigarettes I was taking were the cheapest available in all China; nobody would be caught dead smoking them. The rice wine was a variety of kaoliang so cheap that any laborer in China could afford to drink it almost like water.

Loses Much Luggage at Choson Customs

I started on my journey about 0500 on a spring morning in 1983, leaving from Choyangchon near Jilin Province, about 13 miles from Yongil City. I arrived at the Chinese maritime customs office on the Tumen River upstream from Sungson at about ten o'clock that morning. I breezed through Chinese customs procedures and boarded a ferry to cross the Tumen.

Five or six Choson customs offices are located along that stretch of the Tumen, from Tomun to Hwaryong, and the one at Sungson where I crossed was the smallest. Two men were pulling our boat, which held about a dozen ethnic Korean travelers from China waiting to disembark in their homeland. A line had been stretched across the Tumen, linking Sungson on the Chinese side with Samjang on the Choson side, and the two boatmen were hauling us across the river by pulling hand over hand on that line.

The ferry touched the bank in Choson. The Choson customs officials already knew exactly who would be visiting from China. Nobody was there to greet us, however, because no one knew exactly when we were coming, only that we were coming. This situation developed because placing a telephone call from Korea to China or from China to Korea was all but impossible. We were reduced to communicating our general travel schedule by letter.

Everyone in our party was ostensibly visiting relatives in his homeland, but actually each of us was a peddler. Anybody with two eyes could see this was true because we each travelled with three or four large boxes and other luggage. The Choson people, of course, were not blind. They knew perfectly well what we were about, but they were keeping quiet about it.

We disembarked from the ferry and entered the Choson maritime customs office. It was a clean, single-story, tile-roofed building. As I waited inside to be questioned about entering the country, my high expectations began to turn into disappointment. A wooden desk and a single chair comprised the only furniture in the place, and the chair was just a skeleton, a stool really, with no back. The chairs at the Chinese customs office across the Tumen not only had backs but even had cushions. The differences started with the chairs. Pictures of Kim Il-song taken during a visit to China adorned all the walls. I found a corner of the room, sat down and waited for a very long time, not really concentrating on the customs procedures that awaited me. "Can you please process us more quickly?" I threw the question sharply at the official who seemed to be in charge.

The answer came back clearly enough, "Please just sit where you are."

The other travelers were sitting nearby, and one of them jabbed me in the side and whispered to do as I was told. I waited awhile, and finally a customs officer called my name. I quickly went over and sat down on the rickety chair. He compared my face with my travel picture and asked: "Who are your relatives living in Choson?" I lied, telling him about my second cousin who didn't really exist. "How were you separated from your cousin?" I answered him fluently, but giving the impression that he was dragging it out of me. The customs officer inquired in minute detail about the work my father and grandfather had done. I temporized, saying I knew nothing about anybody older than my own father.

The customs officer looked me forcefully in the eye and asked the next question. "Do you have any family in South Choson?"

"No."

"Have you ever visited South Choson?"

It took 20 minutes to complete the interrogation to enter the country. And they still hadn't inspected my baggage. I heard my name called from the baggage area, a section separate from where we had been waiting. When I reached the side of the customs officer who had called my name, I found that he had already thrown open all my baggage. "You can't take this in," he barked. "That can't come in either." Very shortly he had pulled fully a third of my total baggage into a separate stack. I tried to dissuade him by explaining my situation frankly. He was not impressed, indeed he was contemptuous. "Enough! Do what you're told." I had thought I was pretty smart, but actually I was very naive then. The others had stealthily sneaked cigarettes and alcohol to the customs officers and for their trouble were allowed to take virtually all of their baggage in with them. I calculated that I could afford to lose a third of my goods, so I stopped explaining my situation to the man.

Bribe for a Meal in a Restaurant

It was past lunchtime before everyone in our party finally got his or her baggage cleared through customs. We were all starving, but the customs people had no intention of selling us food from a restaurant inside the customs complex. They wouldn't sell us any food even when we showed them money, so we had no choice but suffer our hunger silently. I learned only later that you had to pay a bribe if you expected them to sell you a meal. After I had made a number of trips and was the leader of a group, I fought with them and actually managed to get them to feed us.

I flew at the restaurant workers on that occasion, yelling, "We are Chinese citizens visiting here today; we are ourselves of Korean ancestry. Do you think we're dogs?" I gave them cigarettes and alcoholic beverages from my merchandise, explained our problem, and they actually gave us bowls of kuksu noodles. I say kuksu noodles, which are made from wheat, but actually these would-be noodles were made from corn. The soup, moreover, had sand in it, but if you were to eat, that's what you ate.

On that first visit, anyway, nobody in our group was smart enough to know how to get us any food, so we went without. After the baggage cleared customs, we all sat down beside our bags and boxes to await a bus. Just after 1400, a cart pulled by a cow so thin its every bone poked through its hide pulled up beside our baggage in the customs compound. The man said the bus couldn't get all the way up to the customs building. He and his cart, he said, would take our baggage down to the bus. I was embarrassed to death at the skinny cow, the old man, and his cart. The man told us they had commandeered the cow from his farm for the task. The old gentleman was in his 50's and used language forms that bordered on the authoritative, if not rude. "Throw your baggage on the cart," he ordered gruffly.

We all got up and started to load our baggage onto the cart. The man stopped us in our tracks with a loud, "You gotta load by number." Nobody had a number. We didn't know what to do next. One of the travelers had a little quicker wit than the rest of us. He quickly passed the old gentleman a pack of cigarettes, and the man's face lighted up instantly. The rest of us were slower, but only by a heartbeat. We all gave him a pack of cigarettes or a bottle of alcohol and in an instant we had our baggage loaded and were off to the bus stop, 200 meters away. As we approached, a middle-aged woman who looked like a customs officer suddenly appeared and demanded payment for use of the cart. She wanted us to pay 10 won for each piece of luggage, but none of us had Choson money, so we gave her cigarettes and liquor instead.

We waited a long time before the bus finally came. The driver announced that the bus had come to pick up Chinese-Koreans visiting from Yonbyon. "Let's get loaded," we said.

"Nope," he answered, and busied himself at something with elaborate pretense. We had it down now and rushed him with cigarettes and liquor. The bus driver soon was just as pleased as the old cartman had been. [illegible] he relented and let us put our baggage aboard. Everything seemed to require a bribe.

We finally got underway. The bus ran on charcoal. I'd heard of charcoal-operated vehicles but had never seen one before. We sat 10 to a bench. The seats at the rear of the bus had been rebuilt to include luggage racks. It took us five hours to go from Samjang to Musan. The road followed a valley and was unpaved, so the bus bounced and jolted every inch of the way. The smoke from the burning charcoal came into the bus proper and added to the torture of the perpetual bouncing. It made me very sick. I had to throw up a number of times during the journey. Corn fields stretched all along the road. We saw no other type of crop at all.

The acres of corn fields, their rows all the same distance apart, left an indelible impression on me. I noticed that the corn was planted up the slopes of the hills and mountains, reaching about half way to their summits. The corn was different from what we grew in China. We grow sweet corn, while they grow a simpler variety. The Choson corn is not as tasty, but someone told us that it has higher yields and that was why Choson used it. I think that information alone provided me with a strong clue to the situation I would find in Choson.

Choking on Corn

We arrived in the city of Musan at about 7:00 o'clock that night, just as the sun was going down. We got off the bus in the heart of the city, and I was flustered because I knew my relative's home was a long distance from the city center, and I didn't know how I was going to get to her place. As our group broke up, each going his or her separate way, I found myself standing in the street all alone with no way to move my heap of baggage. Trucks went by often enough, but I didn't see a single taxi, or any other sedan for that matter. I later learned that there are only two privately-owned vehicles in Musan.

Just then it happened. An old man pulling a cart suddenly appeared. His cart was no bigger than an apple box, but he said he could handle my luggage. His cart was so small I didn't see how all my stuff would fit on it, but somehow he squeezed it on.

The old man stacked the luggage to a fearful height on the little cart and then asked me where we were going, as if he were all done with the loading.

I was firm. "We can't possibly move this cart without tying the baggage down with some twine," I insisted.

"I completely forgot to bring my rope," he responded, quickly assuring me that we would do just fine without it.

Only later, to be sure, did I learn that twine was a very rare commodity in Choson. The stuff they called rope was made from threads taken from abandoned old clothing, so that even thick, burly-looking rope was remarkably weak. Even so, it was next to impossible to find. Chinese-Koreans who visited Choson always left the vinyl ribbon we used to bind bags and boxes for their Korean relatives to use. Typically, their baggage was tied with Korean twine when they returned to China. Some people charged 10 won per meter for the Chinese-made vinyl wrapping ribbon, but I couldn't bring myself to charge for it.

So the old man and I set off for the home of my "second cousin," the old man pulling the cart and I walking beside the cart pushing with all my might to keep my baggage from toppling over. The "auntie" I had met in China was very happy to see me. We unloaded, and I had no sooner settled myself down than they brought dinner in. I was starved. There was very little by way of side dishes, but auntie served me white rice. Auntie's husband left to go to the house of the village chief as soon as I arrived, although it was already late. Auntie told me he had to make an entry in the overnight stay directory, since a traveler had come, and also apply for extra rations for me. The head of the household had gone 10 miles in the dark and on foot, for the family had no bicycle, to enter my name in the overnight stay log. I thought that was a bit severe, but they had a reason for it. Auntie said their purpose was to get extra rations, since the family would receive an extra grain ration starting on the day they received permission for me to stay with them. By registering that night, they would qualify for a whole day's additional rations.

The food changed the next morning. Instead of steamed white rice, the main dish changed to corn, steamed and prepared as if it had been rice, and indeed they even called it "corn rice." Kindly enough, in my honor they sprinkled about 20 grains of real rice atop my steamed corn. It was all I could do to choke the coarse corn down, but I couldn't offend them by letting my eating difficulties show. The sole side dish was kimchi. This so-called kimchi had been made without a single condiment. It had been soaked in brine and then served with a little water on it, as if it were fresh radish and water kimchi. If one stretched it a bit, maybe it was like water kimchi. The kimchi water was so salty I barely dabbed at the dish at all.

As soon as the news that "Someone has come from China" spread through the 40 households in the village, people began coming over to the house in which I was staying to purchase merchandise. My stuff sold like hot cakes because so little merchandise is available on the Choson market. The transactions were strictly in kind. I got 20 dried Alaskan pollack for a skirt that cost me 1 won 30 chon, Chinese. I sold 20 pollack for about 40 won when I got the fish back to China. I was in a business with a markup of about 3000 percent.

100 Times the Black Market Rate

I sold an 18 Chinese chon pack of Chinese Juri cigarettes for 10 North Korean won. The official exchange rate was 1 to 1.12, meaning that 100 Chinese won purchased 112 Korean won at the official rate. But the actual purchasing power of a single Chinese won on the black market made it the equivalent of 30 or 40 Korean won. (Editor's note: In January 1990, the Japanese Nomura Research Institute found that a dollar was worth .94 North Korean won at the official exchange rate, 2.1 North Korean won at the official tourist exchange rate, and 10 North Korean won at the black market exchange rate. The institute pegged the black market exchange rate for Chinese won at seven or eight per dollar. A number of peddlers from Yonbyon argue unanimously, however, that an American dollar was worth a minimum of 100 North Korean won on the North Korean black market. This has triggered growing criticism of both the American CIA and South Korea's NSP for having grossly overestimated North Korea's economy by using the tourist rate as the basis for calculating announced North Korean GNP estimates.)

I cannot deny that I did awfully well during my first visit to Choson in 1983. I purchased 300 won worth of merchandise in China, and I had more than 600 Chinese won left, after expenses, when I sold the Choson items I had received for my merchandise. I wondered where else in the world a person could do that kind of business.

I visited Choson more than 20 times from 1983 to early 1990. The law stipulates that a Chinese citizen shall not be permitted to visit Choson more than once a year, but in a world inhabited by human beings one finds no need to stand exclusively on principle. A bribe has a way of making something impossible into something inevitable. At first I visited only Musan, but later I expanded to Hyesan, Hoeryong, and Chongjin. When I was denied a travel certificate, I just made up a new relative, paid the necessary bribes to Chinese and Choson officials, and my permission would come through. Indeed, during a one year span in 1985 and 1986 I visited Choson five or six times.

During my trips into Choson from 1983 to 1990, I met a great many people. I'm confident that I was able to observe the way of life of the Choson people in more detail than any other person, even now. I've endured Choson's sufferings as my own. The most serious thing is simply that the Choson people don't have anything to eat. One can say without exaggeration that China has solved the problem of feeding her people, at least. In fact, the Chinese now have so many side dishes that the amount of food we discard from the table has become a social issue. Cross the boundary from China into Choson, however, and the food problem is terrible. And it worsens every year. Each time I visited Choson I realized anew the tragic brutality that starvation causes in people.

The saddest words I ever heard in Choson came from a mother: "The child cries from hunger all day long, and I don't even have a piece of candy to give her." In a society where food is in insufficient supply, those who suffer the most are the children. With food short, many Choson mothers find it impossible to nurse, so they feed their babies a thin gruel of water and corn or potatoes. This cannot replace the nourishing milk of their mothers, so many Choson infants suffer greatly from malnutrition. The reality is that Choson children start eating corn gruel as infants of nursing age and grow up with nothing else to eat whatever.

The Children and the Old People Go Hungry

I'll talk about things I actually experienced after I had visited Choson five or six times. I usually did the bulk of my business in the day time, sitting in the home of a benefactor and hammering out deals with people who came to the house to buy my merchandise. When there were no customers, I had nothing to do with my time. I was often the only person in the house, since the other occupants would be at work during the day. I remember one day being so bored that I decided to make some kimchi. Chinese cabbage, the main ingredient of kimchi of course, simply was not available in Choson, so I settled on the usual radish as the major component for my kimchi. I had a terrible time finding a grater in the kitchen, but finally turned one up and started grating my radish. A neighbor boy about 10 dropped by and began watching me work. I was used to seeing him and paid him scant attention.

I grated the radish down until just the bottom remained and tossed this carelessly into the dish water. The boy had been watching me intently, and now his hand shot out and retrieved the radish root from the dishpan. He shoved the end of the root into his mouth.

"Hey," I cried. "You can't eat that! It'll upset your stomach." I was really concerned.

"Oh, don't worry," he said, crunching half the root in a single bite. I felt so sorry for him that I got a couple of pieces of Chinese candy from my stuff and offered them to him. His eyes filled instantly with tears as he accepted the candy, and his head bobbed up and down endlessly as he bowed and mumbled his thanks. He ran home with his treasure.

The family I was staying with enjoyed a comparatively high standard of living, probably because the head of the family was a party member. Both husband and wife worked, so their grain ration was high, too. Even so, they couldn't even consider a diet of white rice. They were so short on salt that they couldn't make kimchi, and they had neither red pepper powder nor other condiments, so their food was uniformly bland. I gave them a dried pollack I had received on a trade so they could enjoy some fish soup. I am not lying. Those poor people put an entire gallon of water in with that solitary fish to make their soup! I just sipped silently away at the stuff, trying not to let them know how tasteless I thought their fish soup was. I was astonished when they said, "You know, it's been over a year since we've had such rich soup!"

The head of the family I stayed with had once lived in China, returning to Choson 30 years before. "When I was in China," he told me, "I used to eat bananas and tangerines, but I've not had a single one of either since I came back here." I was touched and decided on the spot to bring him some tangerines on my next visit; and I did. It wasn't easy. We often brought glutinous rice cake with us from China, so I hollowed out a cavity in the rice cake and hid 10 tangerines inside, getting by customs with no problems. That gentleman was so pleased to get the tangerines that he beamed like a child. I can still see his happy face.

Many Choson people skip lunch. Every family has metal containers in which to pack lunches, but nobody uses them. They don't bother because they don't have rice. Steamed corn barely clears the gullet when it's warm; nobody can eat it cold. So they don't bother to carry lunches. Most of the people outside the cities get by with just breakfast and dinner.

Some Choson people solve the food shortage problem by eating only one meal a day. This practice is particularly common among the old and the unwell, who receive smaller government food rations. I had noticed one old grandmother a number of times during my visits to Musan. She was very old and stooped and always used a piece of string to hold up her dress. I ran into her on the street one day and gave her some Chinese buns. I only had a few with me and had eaten about half of them. I gave the rest to her. She took the buns from me and whipped them instantly inside her blouse.

Food Is Half of People's Conversations

"Please go ahead and eat them here, grandmother," I urged.

She refused to take them out of her blouse. "I've got some grandkids," she said, "whose eyes will bug out over these buns." She hurried away, taking her treasure home. I thought my heart would break. I told the lady of the house in which I was staying about the old grandmother. She clicked her tongue. "Tsk, tsk," she said, "That's terrible." She went on to explain that the old woman didn't get along well with her daughter-in-law and was trying to get by on a single meal a day. I asked why the old lady wore the string around her waist. "The old woman always wears that string because she heard that it would keep her stomach from shrinking from hunger. She always wears it now." I blinked. Can this all be real?

Chinese people and Choson people have differences on the outside. When Chinese people walk down the street, they almost swagger. Choson people walk with small, fast steps, their hands clasped behind them, their heads down most of the time, as if watching the ground. I don't know whether it's because the Choson men are hungry and their stomachs are shrunken, but they characteristically walk with slightly hunched shoulders. And every North Korean walks around with an instructional book tucked beneath his arm. When they meet someone affiliated with the party on the street they bow and scrape with all the servility of the hired hand.

It is very simple to discover how important eating is in Choson. In conversations among themselves or with me, I found that they spoke of food more than half the time. I've heard mother after mother say that her children tell her of having dreams in which they eat to their hearts' content.

In 1988, the head of a Choson family with which I had stayed visited China to see relatives. It had been almost 30 years since he had last seen China, and his brothers who had remained in China presented him with more than 10,000 Chinese won worth of goods. He stayed with one of his relatives, and he really did eat as much meat as he wanted. They served him a bowl of pork fat at each meal, a dish the Chinese themselves shun. He finished his stay in China and returned to Choson, but three days after arriving home, this gentleman suddenly became paralyzed on one side of his body. Later I stayed at that very home. "All that meat he ate in China," his wife insisted, "gave him a fever and caused this paralysis."

The number of Chinese-Koreans who visit Choson increases each year, and the Koreans who live in the vicinity of the Chinese border have been caught up with an enormous desire to visit China. The lucky ones have relatives there. Choson authorities will permit Choson people to make one trip every three years to visit relatives in China. They don't allow those under 30 to travel, of course, nor permit couples to travel together. Children too young to attend primary school are allowed to accompany a parent, however. It seems that a disproportionate number of Choson people who visit China bring along babies of nursing age. When you ask them why they do that, you get the same answer every time.

"I want the baby to eat well, at least during the time we're in China."

Choson people who have no relatives in China often invent such relatives and manage to travel to China to visit their imaginary relatives. Chinese-Korean people like myself provide visiting Choson people a warm welcome. Their expectations of China are so overblown as to be downright absurd. The Choson people are sure that the Chinese have not a worry in the world about what to eat or how to get by. I'll tell you what these absurd expectations did to one Choson family.

Running Away to China in the Night

I heard the following story while I was staying in Musan in 1988. I was able to verify most of it when I got back to China. A Choson couple were raising five children. The wife was from China but had followed her husband into Choson before they got married. After years of undergoing unimaginable hardships in Choson, she visited relatives in China and then returned to her home in Choson. During her visit to China, however, she had made up her mind that she would run away from Choson and return to China. They called their married daughter back home, and the seven members of the family ran away from Choson during the night of the third day after she had returned from China. On the way they came across an ox, which they stole and led along with them. They had heard that they could sell an ox in China and make enough to set the family up.

The family reached the Tumen River. They put the children on the ox, and the adults swam. They reached the Chinese bank safely, but they had neither money nor travel certificates. The family kept to back roads and managed to get as far as Hwanyong. But fate overtook them on a rural road. A Chinese vehicle came down the road and hit the ox, the very ox that was to establish the family in China. The animal's leg was broken, and the ox could walk no further. The head of the family and the Chinese driver fell into a quarrel. The Choson man demanded that the driver pay him for the cow, and the Chinese driver wanted to let the law settle the case.

Villagers gathered around as the argument continued. One of the Chinese onlookers noticed that everybody in the family was wearing canvas shoes. "Hey," he yelled. "You're all from Choson, aren't you?"

One of the children retorted rudely, "How can you tell we're from Choson, huh?" The argument occurred near a Chinese customs post, and a villager made a report about the fracas. A customs policeman soon arrived on a motorbike and took the Choson family into custody.

Chinese customs officials were investigating the family when they received a report from Choson that they had left the country illegally. "We've got to return you all to Choson," the Chinese officials told the head of the Choson family.

The father thought for a while. "Why don't you kill me," he finally begged. "And send my body back to Choson. If you send us all back, we'll be dead by morning anyway." There was nothing the Chinese officials could do.

The Chinese customs men felt very sorry for the family. They contacted a restaurant and ordered a big batch of steamed dumplings for them. The father gathered his children, told them they were being sent back, and said, "Let's forget our worries now, and just eat till we're all full." So the family had its last supper. They ate all the dumplings, and more were ordered. Indeed, they had to order several more times. That night, the married daughter went outside to urinate and ran off into the hills instead. The rest of the family was turned over to Choson authorities the next day. They were labelled as traitors. The father and sons were taken to separate prisons. The mother and the daughters were taken to their home but given the treatment of traitors. They are said to be living still.

The daughter who ran away from the Chinese customs officials found a job at a restaurant in Shenyang and worked there for three months before she, too, was picked up by the authorities and deported to Choson.

Those who commit crimes in Choson thereafter qualify for only one half of the daily food ration. I saw a group of prisoners in Musan who were being used in the construction of a multistory building. I watched the prisoners carry three huge bricks at a time on their backs up a ramp beside the partially completed building. I tried to lift one of the bricks. I'm pretty strong for a woman, but it required all my strength just to lift one brick. The construction site was patrolled by roving guards, and I noticed that the prisoners worked in utter silence.

A Hanging in Broad Daylight

According to what I've been told by people in Choson, if you become a prisoner in Choson you will be better off dead. A person who has committed a crime is shut up in a structure built in such a way that he can neither stand fully upright nor stretch fully out. Criminals who are not remanded to prison but who are allowed to remain at their homes receive discriminatory treatment, and this treatment is extended to their children as a matter of policy.

In 1988 while visiting Musan I witnessed an appalling spectacle. The authorities first gathered the people of the village together, and then they hanged a person right there in front of them. As a stranger, I didn't know what was going on until it was too late. My naivete was rewarded with a most tragic experience.

The young man who was hanged was said to be a murderer. He was 27 years old and was relatively refined for a young person in Choson. He was even able to play the guitar. Indeed, he actually owned a guitar, although it was old. During a visit to China, the young man ran across a cassette of South Choson songs and purchased it. He brought it back to Choson, where he and a friend liked to sing along with the cassette. Then a rumor began to spread that the young man was singing South Choson songs, and he suspected that a second friend with whom he had sung along from the tape had failed to maintain security. The young man went drinking with this friend, and a fight ensued in which the young man stabbed his friend to death.

The young man was hanged in front of virtually the entire population of Musan. He was brought to the site in a truck, his hands bound behind him and a gag in his mouth. The police threw a rope over a limb on a big tree and tied the rope around the young man's neck. We onlookers watched the spectacle in a vast quiet, as if we all had stopped breathing. The criminal was surrounded by a circle of policemen. Friends told me that his relatives had been confined to their homes so that they could not witness the execution. Very soon, a policeman began to pull on the rope, hoisting the man into the air. The policeman's face was absolutely exultant. The young man writhed in the air. They lowered his body to the ground after 40 minutes.

It was so terrible, that I forgot what I was going to say. I asked one of the neighbors I knew well, "Why did they gag him?"

"I hear it's because they didn't want him to say anything bad about Kim Il-song before he died."

In China, I had witnessed an execution by gunfire. But on that occasion the method was to have dozens of soldiers raise their rifles but only one does the actual firing. The men in the firing squad all wore dark glasses to make it difficult for them to see who fired his rifle, a relatively broad-minded approach.

Changes are coming to Choson. Every Choson person I have met recently says, "I want to live well. Me. Nothing else has any value anymore." The most typical example of this altered consciousness is the expansion of "backdoor business" among the Choson people. (Editor's note: "Backdoor business" is an illegal peddling business.)

Choson people who have relatives in China have a higher standard of living than do others in Choson society. Those who can afford to buy Chinese merchandise also have a higher standard of living than does the average Choson family. The number of people involved in business in Choson is increasing. If you buy an Alaskan pollack for one won in Wonsan, for example, and take it to Musan or Hyesan, you can sell it for two won. If you take it even deeper into the mountainous areas, you can sell it for even more.

Chosen Soren People Are the Richest in Choson

There is no freedom of travel in Choson. You need permission to go anyplace. Those who hope to be successful in backdoor business must have close ties with party people. If you have such ties, you can get approval for a trip within three or four days. I learned what a miracle that was when I watched what happened to a girl who came to Musan to marry. Her mother died, and she requested permission to travel to the funeral. It took so long that her mother was buried before permission was granted.

Whatever else it is, backdoor business involves buying and selling. That means that backdoor business people are getting deeply involved in areas that even the Choson national economy has been unable to solve. Wherever you go in the areas around Musan, Hyesan, and Hoeryong, you see merchandise shops. Signs advertise shops selling fish, restaurants, and places that specialize in seafood. You can see the signs, all right, but you never see a single person enter the shop doors. If the Choson people had the money, the fact is that they could buy virtually anything but the scarcest items, like sugar and toothpaste.

One day the family I was staying with ran out of salt. I asked them if there was a place I could go and buy them some. The lady of the house went out and came back with a cup of salt. I learned from this incident how the backdoor market operates. Someone will be selling rice at their house. Someone else will be selling cooking oil at their house. Together, the backdoor market families sell almost everything. Choson people who are so poor that they don't even have Choson money, which is no different from Chinese toilet paper, are often reduced to begging for the food they need from those who are a little better off. It is easy to see neighbors "borrowing" rice, cooking oil, or soy sauce from each other.

One night the lady of the neighboring house came over and jiggled our gate. The auntie with whom I was staying went out to meet her, and I overheard their conversation. The lady from next door said in a low voice, "Can you loan me some soy sauce?" She was whispering because she was embarrassed to have a visitor from China overhear her.

In a country where food is in short supply, it follows that where rice itself is short, there will be precious few side dishes either. Families who are a little better off than others have better side dishes, like water kimchi. In ordinary families the only side dish you can expect is a spoonful of soy sauce on your bowl of corn. The soy sauce and bean paste Chinese-Koreans enjoyed in China was different from products of the same name in Choson. Both are made from soy beans of course, but in Choson they use a base ingredient comprised of only one third soy beans and two thirds acorn powder to make the fermented soy bean paste. If you touch the substance the Choson people call bean paste with your spoon, it disappears in the bowl like so much water.

The Choson families with higher standards of living are those who originally were members of the Chosen Soren in Japan and those who have relatives in China.

What I saw when I visited the home of a Choson Soren Korean who repatriated to Choson from Japan wasn't even Choson. Both the husband and wife of the family had come to Choson from Japan, and I was told that they had family members who remained in Japan and continued to provide them with financial support. In a word, they were the richest people in all Musan. They had a private sedan and a color television set. They served coffee to guests. They had two refrigerators, both of Japanese manufacture. I was told by those close to the family that everything they owned was made in Japan, down to the spoons in the kitchen. If you opened their refrigerators, you found them stuffed to overflowing with canned foods from Japan. Green vegetables were about the only foodstuffs they procured in Choson. The lady of the house didn't ask me for a single thing, even though she knew I sold Chinese merchandise. Well, once she did ask me for some sugar.

I was told that these people were very reluctant to have outsiders visit them. They were sufficiently aware to don the same kind of clothes worn by regular people when they went out.

The other rich family in Musan was said to be that of a military officer. They had a private telephone, and their house was surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Guard dogs wandered around inside the fence to keep intruders out. I went inside once, and it was really something to see. For one thing, the place was piled to the rafters with food. They brought out stacks of seafood, taffy, glutinous rice cakes, and candy. Of course they also had a color television set, and their school-aged daughter owned and could play an accordion. They already had the kinds of merchandise in which I dealt. In fact, they were so rich they gave me a gift of a dried pollack when I visited them.

I met a woman in Hyesan who was prominent in the backdoor market and had made a fortune. She was over 40 and a most magnanimous lady. She would treat a penniless outsider as if she were a queen. She was partial to people from Haean and treated them with even more generosity. She would come by and purchase things, or she would have the other person buy her things. She then would sell these things to her backdoor business customers at a profit. Backdoor business works on a profit margin of over 200 percent. A certain amount of the profits must be earmarked for party officials as bribes, however. That lady was such an outstanding business person that she even had Japanese money in her possession.

A Society Ruled Completely by Bribery

Nothing happens in Choson without a bribe. You can't even get a single line of writing done without paying a bribe. The buses in Musan are always full of passengers, and the bus drivers have unchallenged power. I witnessed a young woman ask a bus driver to let her aboard. The next bus wasn't due for 30 minutes. She explained her problem to the driver. "I left my nursing baby at home, and it's past time to nurse her. Could you please let me on first?"

"I said no," the driver said forcefully. "And I meant no. Do as you're told."

The practice in Choson is to board buses in the order that the prospective passengers arrive at the bus stop, where numbers are issued as you arrive. I didn't come to understand how this worked until I had visited Choson a few times. On a number of occasions thereafter, I would visit the bus driver's home the night before I wanted to ride the bus and give the man cigarettes or liquor. Invariably they would respond with, "Okay woman. You're number one tomorrow."

Chinese who entered Choson to visit a relative were forbidden from travelling to areas other than the one in which the relative lived. I had never seen the ocean. One of my girlhood dreams was to visit the seashore. On my fifth or sixth visit to Choson, I decided to fulfill that dream. I knew, of course, that officially it was not possible to do, so I dreamed up a little scheme. It seemed like it would be easy to get to the ocean if I could just get aboard the train that ran back and forth from my location at Musan to Chongjin, on the coast. I forged a bridge to the train workers and bribed them all.

It was the summer of 1985. Thanks to the magic of bribery, I was aboard the train for Chongjin. To be sure, I didn't have a travel certificate, so I sat at the front of the train beside an area reserved for the train's workers. A few other passengers sat nearby. We arrived in Chongjin after a two hour ride, and I hurried off as fast as I could to see the ocean. I found no fish market per se at the seashore. I did find a number of grandmothers over 50 with towels wrapped around their heads selling crabs, pollack, sea cucumbers, squid, and sardines. They were trying to hawk the seafood to passers-by, but nobody was buying.

In an effort to mask my Chinese roots, I was wearing the short traditional dress, or chima, habitually worn by Choson women. I saw a number of controllers wearing red arms bands. They had overturned a plank set up as a bench for people to sit on. I wasn't sure why they had knocked the bench over, but I was afraid they were trying to prevent the old ladies from doing business.

As I passed a stall featuring sardines and squid, the grandmother sang out, "Please buy some! Please buy some! I've been here all day and haven't sold anything." She was pleading to the point of tears. I bought some sardines, Alaskan pollack, and squid from her and didn't try to bargain down the price a penny. The price was about one half what it was in Musan. I bought almost 2000 won worth of sea products. I used the same train as before to return to Musan. Nobody asked me to show a travel certificate.

The Choson Government distributed a rice ration to the people at the village ration center once every two weeks. Even if you possessed a rice coupon qualifying you for this ration, the coupon was good only at your local village ration distribution center. By early morning on the day of the rice ration distribution, people were already waiting in lines 30 or 40 meters long. It was afternoon before one was able to pay her money and pick up her rice ration. Everyone shuffled along by number. The payment was a mere formality since the price was so low.

Candy That Doesn't Melt if You Walk Ten Miles

A family of four or five receives a biweekly rice ration of only two and a half gallons, dry measure, along with small amounts of corn and barley. Once when no one else was home in the house in which I was staying, I went myself to the distribution center to pick up the rice ration. It happened to be a hot, summer day, and the women lined up waiting for their rice were suffering under the hot rays of the sun. We were standing close together, but nobody was visiting. One lady had a child on her back, and she was perspiring profusely. The distribution started, but the line didn't seem to grow any shorter. The man who was distributing the grain was someone I knew well. I raised my voice and said, "I'm a Korean visiting from China, can't I go first." I walked to the front of the line as I spoke. The man distributing the rice had taken bribes from me, so he issued me the ration out of order. The people watching this scene said nothing. They just stood and stared blankly. No one complained.

In Choson they mill rice grains only very slightly. As a result, steamed rice turns out an unappetizing brownish color, and the grains won't cling together. I brought Chinese rice with me to steam for the family I stayed with, and they laughed and joked when I served them white steamed rice. "Today must be our birthday," they said. They liked the Chinese rice a great deal.

Not just rice and cereals are in short supply in Choson. The shortage of daily necessities grows worse by the year. Even in China, we've pretty well solved the problem of supplying the daily necessities to everybody. In Choson, the products either don't exist at all, or they have the products but their quality is so low as to make them virtually unusable. The typical examples are toothpaste and soap. Many times I've seen people who couldn't do their laundry because they had no soap. You can't find toothpaste to buy even if you have money to buy it.

Stockings are in short supply in Choson. All the women and children I met in Chosun habitually went barefooted, even during the winter. I've asked them if they weren't freezing, and they would respond by saying things like, "It's okay. We're used to it. In fact, we would feel uncomfortable wearing shoes and socks." Yet I noticed that even indoors they would tuck their uncovered feet up under the skirts to keep them warm. In China nobody wears patched pants. In Choson, they still wear pants with the knees patched. When I first visited Choson in 1983, I seldom saw anyone wearing patched pants, but the practice is now very common. This change has added to my impression that the economic situation in Choson is worsening over time.

Men's pants in Choson don't have zippers, only buttons. In China now, almost all the men wear leather belts, but in Choson almost all the men continue to wear belts made of plastic. Sugar is an item you simply can't find in Choson.

One summer day I noticed people standing in a line on the street. I walked over to see what was going on and found that someone was selling ice confections. I waited in line for quite a while and finally bought my yellow ice confection. I put it to my lips, and the taste pierced me like a knife. It was nothing but a bitter lump of ice. There was no sweet taste at all. I spit out the first bite and turned to leave. An older lady standing nearby wasn't going to let me get away with that. "Why are you throwing away something so hard to get? You should at least give it to a child."

"Why is it so bitter," I asked the lady.

"Candy," she said, meaning sugar, "is bad for the body, so they make it with healthy grasses that grow high in the mountains."

The government distributes candy on the birthdays of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il. The candy comes in envelopes but is completely unwrapped. I'd like to tell you what it tastes like, but I can't because I couldn't get it to melt in my mouth. I had the temerity to name it "walk-10-miles-but-never-melt" candy, and everybody laughed.

Precious Treasures: Sewing Machines and Television Sets

Choson does not have enough clothing for its people. Nothing underscores this more than the fact that Chinese peddlers going into Choson take along more clothing than any other item of merchandise. The clothing shortage is so bad that it is sad to watch people in colder areas like Musan and Hyesan walk around during the winter. I promise you that you would cry if you could see these people. They fold their arms across their chests to conserve body heat; they huddle into themselves; and they shiver so hard from the cold that you swear their bodies will fly apart. It doesn't matter what they're wearing on the outside; the problem is they have nothing to wear underneath.

The Choson people don't have diapers for their babies. They use worn-out clothing as baby diapers. They patch and wear clothes that are worn out, and then when they're completely worn out, with the emphasis on "completely," they take them to "household factories" where they are used to make twine. Very few Choson people have dogs. It is no easy thing to raise a dog in an environment where people themselves don't have enough to eat. Still, some families do raise dogs, however difficult the task. They do it because if they give a dog to the party, each family member receives a pair of pants in return.

The most precious commodities in Choson are household appliances. Sewing machines, black-and-white television sets, and bicycles brought in from China become the most prized possessions a family can have. These products are prized so highly because either Choson simply doesn't have a given product or because those they do have are of such abysmal quality. Riding the bus in Choson is such a terrible chore that after I had visited a number of times, I paid 4000 won for a "Youth" brand bicycle. It was a piece of junk. It broke down for good as I was peddling up a hill shortly after I purchased it. I just threw it away. Even that worthless bike was a treasured item to the Choson people.

I remember that when I was young China used to import North Korean television sets, but no such trade exists now. China today is in the process of changing over from black-and-white television to color television. No one in China wants to buy a black-and-white set any more, but if you take one to Choson, you can still sell it for a good profit.

One special circumstance is that if you sell just a television set in Choson, it is useless. Choson's electric voltage fluctuates so wildly that without a transformer, any electric appliance is worthless. When one sells a black-and-white television set, one must sell a transformer along with it. Municipal authorities even in Choson's larger cities, like Musan and Hoeryong, conserve electricity by not using the street lights. It is so dark that if you venture outside you run the risk of bumping into the people you're walking with. Yet many people venture out on these dark streets. Everyone of them carries a flashlight made in China. One cannot find batteries in Choson either, so when you sell a flashlight, you must also sell 30 or 40 batteries to the person who buys the flashlight.

Choson has no sanitary napkins either. Most women take care of it with gauze. Hoping to conserve precious soap, they cleanse the gauze by boiling and reusing it each month. Ladies' underwear is in a pitiable state. I can't begin to count the pairs of underwear that I've lost during trips to Choson. They simply disappeared after I washed them and put them out to dry.

When you see destitute people collecting waste, you cannot let yourself think, "You're going too far there." In a society like that in Choson where everyone works so hard to conserve what little they have, when it comes to gathering scrap metal, everybody gets interested. People on the street who happen to spot a single metal object will pounce upon it shamelessly.

I have heard from Choson people that children go as far entering other people's yards in a desperate search for scrap metal. One lady I knew very well told me, "If the party tells you to do something, you have to do it." Maybe that's why she was so diligent at searching for metal scraps.

Each Choson family has its own kitchen. Kitchen cupboards contain nickel-silver bowls and flatware. They keep uncooked grains and other foods in a separate cupboard under lock and key. There are no bathrooms in Choson homes, but villages with at least 40 households have a common bathroom. Each family uses an old bowl as a chamber pot. They store kimchi in bowls which look like real chamber pots, a practice which kept me perpetually unnerved.

They Have Children To Increase Their Food Ration

Agricultural products in Choson don't stand up to comparison with their Chinese counterparts. I bought an apple and a pear in downtown Musan once. The apple skin was thick, and the fruit was so sour I could barely eat it at all. The pear was very small, and I jokingly called it a rock pear. The seeds of their garlic were tiny, as were those of their potatoes, apples, and sweet potatoes. I learned that planting priority went to crops that had a high yield, no matter what it was like or how it tasted.

Choson is a patriarchal society. One commonly hears terms like "this bitch" or "you bitch" during spats between husband and wife, and these terms just empty the spirit right out of the wife. Wives call their husbands "father" or "lord of the generation," terms never heard in China. Wives generally have responsibility for everything that happens at home, a particularly burdensome responsibility in families which essentially live in poverty and starvation. Still, many Choson families have four or five children. I couldn't stop from asking, "Why are you so stupid as to have all these kids?" The lady would usually just hang her head and say, "I'm a Choson woman." Finally someone explained it to me. In a society where everything is rationed and issued by the state, another child in the family means that the family's rations will be increased; the family will be able to get at least one more set of clothing.

After I had been visiting Choson for years and had developed feelings of attachment for a number of women there, I would fly into a rage when I heard them speak of their poverty as if it were unavoidable karma. Many times I promised them: "Hey! Flee to China! I'll take responsibility for your welfare."

Not a single thing has improved in Choson since 1983, when I first visited. The people often tell me now that, "Things are getting more tense as time goes on." When I asked them why, nobody was able to give me a fresh, persuasive answer. Whatever the answer may be, I've seen with my own eyes that on basic matters like food and clothing their situation continues to worsen.

Once I believed that the lives of residents of Musan, Hoenyong, and similar places were very much more difficult than the lives of the citizens of large cities like Pyongyang or Wonsan. But I may have been wrong. Two of the daughters of a woman I got to know in Choson married men who took them to live in Pyongyang. I met one of these girls when she and her husband visited her parents while on leave from work. I had always wondered about the living standard of Pyongyang citizens, and was about to ask them about it when I saw the present they had brought for her parents. I just kept my mouth shut. The gift was a knapsack full of potatoes and sweet potatoes. They told us that it was just as hard to get food in Pyongyang as it was in the provinces. They said that those around Kim Il-song lived somewhat better, that was all. They said that they had seen more Chinese goods and had enjoyed a higher standard of living while residing relatively near China than they had while in Pyongyang. That conversation shattered my high expectations for Pyongyang. I talked to party officials who told me that official requests to move into the Musan-Hoenyong area were increasing each year.

They told me that the best areas in which to live in Choson were along the coasts near fishing villages and along the Tumen and Yalu rivers bordering China.

4000 Won for a Room Six Feet Square

Even in Choson men and women live together, so even Choson has its battles between the sexes. I'll tell you a real story I encountered during the time I stayed in Choson. A man who was a driver had three children and became close to a woman who had repatriated from Japan and had two children. One day the driver's wife and the Japanese-Korean woman got into a fight. The driver happened on the scene and without warning began to beat his wife soundly. Citizens who saw the fight stepped in and separated the two before it got serious and rumors circulated to the authorities. It is sad to think that people act in this way while they're starving.

I attended a wedding once while I was staying in Musan. It was held at the home of the groom. The groom was dressed in a dark western-style suit and a white shirt, the bride wore a pink Korean-style dress (chima and chogori), without a veil, and wore flowers in her hair in place of a veil. Instead of the expected rubber shoes (komusin), she wore a pair of white plastic shoes. The guests gave gifts of about 10 won each, ate a single bowl of corn noodle soup, and left.

I was flabbergasted to see what the bride gave to her new parents-in-law as the traditional Korean gift from the bride. The present was a goldfish and a peacock, meant to be displayed on a table. They were made in an unbelievably course way, hand-molded from boiled flour painted with red dye. The workmanship was awful.

In Hamgyong Province the young ladies spare no wedding expense. Chinese-made articles are the most popular. The mother-in-law to be might get a 1 won, 20 chon (Chinese) short-sleeved blouse, the groom and the father-in-law might each get a pair of pants. I hear that for presents in this range and for a wedding reception, the cost would be 4000 to 5000 North Korean won, a sum which only the well off could possibly afford.

Families with even more money set their son and his bride up as a "branch family" after they sponsor the wedding. Although it is difficult to find a free-standing house in Choson, you can buy a room which is built on to an existing structure. You can purchase a single room with a kitchen to the side for about 4000 won. Since a Choson worker earns about 50 won per month, that is no small sum.

In poorer families, presents are not exchanged at all, no reception is held, and the young man and woman often live together without benefit of a wedding.

Choson likes to propagandize that its sick people receive free treatment. Based on what I've actually seen myself, that's a lie. There are many hospitals, to be sure, but none of them has any medicines. Not long ago while I was in Choson, the pregnant daughter-in-law of the family with which I was staying developed a carbuncle on her neck. She was in such pain that I suggested we take her to the hospital. "They don't have any medicine there," she complained. "So why go?" She grew worse each day, and the young girl finally asked me to help her. She was carrying a lighted candled and passed it to me. I realized she wanted me to drop hot wax on the carbuncle on her neck. I told her I couldn't do it, but she begged and I had no choice.

She let out a short scream and went to sleep soon after. Her forehead was damp with sweat, and I was perspiring too. Mysteriously enough, within a few days the carbuncle cleared up as if it had been washed away. The people of Choson have nothing to put on the cuts so common among children and even adults in daily living. They treat cuts by boiling soy sauce and pouring it into the wound, dabbing it away, and then repeating the process. Choson mothers have nothing to give their children to bring down fever when they catch colds.

I have visited Choson, and I have visited the Republic of Korea. Even before I visited the Republic of Korea, I met ethnic Koreans from both Choson and the Republic of Korea while living in my home in China. I saw a world of difference in the two. That enormous difference served as a yardstick in my mind to measure the different levels of development achieved by Choson and the Republic of Korea. I had been relatively successful in China as a businesswoman. When I went to Choson, I made small margins on many items that sold quickly, but when I went to the Republic of Korea, I took only one item, but it was an expensive one.

The North Korean People Are Kindhearted

I was selling clothing in Yongil City in 1988 when I met a tourist from the Republic of Korea. He said he wanted to buy one of my wool sweaters for his wife, and asked the price. "Since you're from the Republic of Korea," I told him, "you'll have to pay a lot for that sweater." He shocked me silly by handing me a hundred dollar bill, about 600 Chinese won. If he had paid me only 130 won, I'd still have made money. I was so grateful, I bowed and bowed again.

A few days later I met a visitor from Choson in a used electronic appliance shop in downtown Yongil City where a friend worked. In his late 40's, the Choson gentleman wanted to buy a used tape recorder priced at 70 won. He had been back to this same shop no fewer than five times. He would listen to the tape recorder and say, "It's too shrill." Then he would go on to find other faults with the recorder. He wanted my friend to reduce the price by just 10 more won. She was only an employee at the shop, of course, and simply couldn't do it. In the end, the Choson man gave up. He never bought the tape recorder.

A number of my friends had already visited not only Choson but also the Republic of Korea. They compared the two this way.

"Choson is 30 years behind China, and China is 30 years behind the Republic of Korea."

Choson itself has now opened its eyes to business. Small business people like myself have an absolute genius for tumbling to the fact that the competition is increasing. The people of Choson today are not the same people they were in 1983. Most Choson people believe that Kim Chong-il will come to power when Kim Il-song dies and that the son will open the country more than it is at present. I've heard Choson people say that even if Kim Chong-il wanted to follow a policy of openness, his father would "never" allow it. The two Kims apparently have a difference of view on the issue.

The people of Musan and Hoeryong are aware that people in the Republic of Korea enjoy a higher standard of living than do they. But they believe that the reason for this is the patronage of the United States. They believe that politically the Republic of Korea is a colony of the United States, but that economically the United States has helped Seoul enormously, so they have a high standard of living. The people of Choson regard the United States as the most frightening nation in the world, and also the nation which has the highest living standard in the world.

The people of Choson honestly worship Kim Il-song and Kim Chong- il. Even a family living in abject poverty will have three photographs on the walls. It used to be that there were only two pictures, one of Kim Il-song and another of Kim Chong-il, but today a third picture showing the two Kims talking to each other is de rigueur. Even people who don't keep their house clean never fail to dust these photographs daily.

The consciousness of Kim Il-song ingrained in the people of North Korea boggles imagination. When they roll cigarettes from newspaper or when they use newspaper in the bathroom, they never fail to be sure that they don't deface a photograph of Kim Il-song. When they tear up their children's school notebooks to use the paper, they always check first to be sure no writing on the pages to be used praises either of the two Kims.

The Choson people actually worship Kim Il-song like a god. I have seen a number of Choson ladies shed honest tears of respect for Kim when he has appeared on television. Each time they see his visage they say things like, "Our sufferings are nothing. That is the man who has undergone great suffering."

Having lived intimately with the Choson people, I can characterize them as a kindhearted people. I get angry every time I think of Choson because I do not understand why only the people of the north and not those of the south have to lead lives of suffering. When I think of Choson, I think of a country in which half of all conversations focus on food, and across my mind's eye flash the faces of the starving babies and the hungry old people. I pray in my heart that unification will come quickly, so that their suffering can end.

PRC Bid To Host ESCAP Assembly Supported

SK2103021491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea, host of the 47th General Assembly of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), will support China's bid to hold next year's ESCAP General Assembly as part of its efforts to join the United Nations this year, government sources said Thursday.

Also during the Seoul meeting April 1-10, South Korea is considering asking member nations to insert a clause calling for North Korea to join the regional U.N. body in a resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly, they said. North Korea is the only country in the Asia-Pacific region that is not a member of ESCAP.

The likelihood of Pyongyang entering ESCAP will be heightened if China, North Korea's chief ally, is awarded the 1992 ESCAP conference, the sources said. North Korea has recently shown interest in the regional body, making inquiries at the ESCAP secretariat in Bangkok about admission procedures.

One of the government officials said Korea could play an important role in China's bid to be host in 1992.

North Korea needs to join ESCAP to help vitalize economic cooperation with other countries in the region, but has not sought membership because admission would conflict with its U.N. policy, an official said.

If the North were a member of ESCAP, there would be a considerable change in its policy on the South's proposal for simultaneous entry into the United Nations, he said.

North Korea has persistently rejected simultaneous entry, and instead proposed a single seat shared by both sides.

Cultural Center To Be Established in China

SK2203110291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0916 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Korea will establish a cultural center in China's Yanbian Korean Autonomous District this year, according to the Korea-China Culture Association.

Culture Minister Yi O-ryong, Korean Arts and Culture Foundation Chairman Yo Suk-ki, and the chairmen of Daewoo, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and Sunkyung groups decided Thursday to set up a "writers' house" in Yanbian. Ground will be broken next month for the construction of a four-story building, which will cost 400 million won.

The Association will be in charge of details of the project, which will help ethnic Korean writers and promote study of the Korean language in Yanbian, it said.

Taiwan Reportedly To Buy 'Fleet' of Corvettes

SK0903014091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 91 p 8

[Excerpt] Taipei [AFP]—Taiwan is to purchase a fleet of 16 corvettes from South Korea in a sale that will involve technology transfers and improve delicate relations between the two countries, the mass-circulation China Times reported here Thursday.

In a dispatch from Seoul, the daily said after seven years of negotiations, Taiwan has decided to buy 161,200-ton Pohang-class corvettes from South Korea's Hyundai Shipbuilding Corp. before June for 100 million U.S. dollars each to replace its ageing fleet.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry and the South Korean embassy here denied knowledge of the report.

The sale, which will involve technology transfers, was expected to "bring the two (countries) closer to each other ... and cool down South Korea's mainland (China) fever," the daily said.

Seoul, one of 28 countries in the world which recognize Taipei, has been wooing Beijing in recent years and has swapped trade offices with China.

In 1988, Taiwan put off the planned purchase of six guided-missile Ulsan-class frigates from Hyundai due to opposition from Taiwan legislators, who questioned the wisdom of buying the ships in light of Seoul's overtures to Beijing.

The deputies also stressed the need for Taiwan to build an independent defense industry. Instead, Taiwan opted to purchase six lightweight frigates of the 1,200-ton La Fayette class from France. But Paris decided against the sale, which would have been worth 1.8 billion U.S. dollars, due to pressure from Beijing, with which it has diplomatic relations. [passage omitted]

U.S. To Receive $100 Million in Cash for Gulf

SK2103033391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to deliver $100 million in cash to the United States out of $280 million South Korea earlier promised to contribute to the allied forces' anti-Iraq campaign, it was announced yesterday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said that the government will provide $66 million by late this month in an initial disbursement.

Besides the cash contribution, the government will supply $100 million in the form of transport services and another $50 million in kind, according to the spokesman. He said that the government will extend cash and transport contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces through consultations with members of the Gulf War coalition.

The U.S. administration has demanded that South Korean government increase the cash portion as the Gulf War ended earlier than expected.

Another $30 million in cash will go to Great Britain which also played a major role in the war.

South Korea had provided $220 million in its initial contribution to the anti-Iraq campaign. Of the additional pledge of $280 million, the government had originally planned to provide only $60 million in cash to the United States.

$50 Million To Be Invested in Trans-Soviet Line

SK2203103791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0957 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has decided to put 50 million dollars into construction of the Trans-Soviet Line (TSL) and to jointly conduct a route survey with Japan on the section connecting Korea, the Soviet Union and Japan, Korea Telecom said Friday.

The state-run company said it would conclude a protocol with Japan in April on sharing the cost of construction, maintenance and repair of the section, to be jointly constructed with Japan. The two countries will begin cable laying work in 1993 for completion in early 199.

Korea Telecom, which represents Korea in the international telecommunication consortium, hosted meetings of the legal, technical and business-working subcommittees of the TSL steering committee march Monday through Wednesday and that of the steering committee Thursday and Friday.

In the meetings, it was agreed to use an undersea branching unit instead of undersea multiplex equipment to set up the 1,147-kilometer fourth section of the TSL between Uleung Island (Korea), Nakhodka (the Soviet Union) and Hamada (Japan) for its price and quality advantages.

The branching unit, to be installed 45 kilometers east of Uleung, can accommodate 7,680 circuits simultaneously by means of 565 megabit per second (BPS) grade optical fiber line.

Originally, 21 million dollars was to be put into the Korea-Soviet line and 26 million dollars into the Japan-Soviet line, but the total construction cost of the fourth section is expected to increase now that a Korea-Japan line has been added.

The thorny matter of exporting telecommunication equipment to the Soviet Union has been reviewed in light of regulations adopted by the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) but the final decision is likely to come at a high-level Cocom meeting in Paris in April.

The TSL is to use a 665 mega BPS grade system, but selling a 90 mega BPS grade system to the Soviet Union is banned under current Cocom regulations.

The Soviet Union is to use its in-house developed 140 mega BPS grade system in the third section between Nakhodka and Moscow if the original plan is blocked by the Cocom regulations, but it may make Korea Telecom reconsider the whole project in perspective of economic efficiency, a Korea Telecom official said.

At present, the first section between the Soviet Union and Denmark and the second section between the Soviet Union, Turkey and Italy are under promotion irrespective of Cocom regulations, while the third section is under a detailed route survey.

Besides which, the Seoul meeting approved the additional entry of Turkey and decided to pin down the scale of investment in the business working group meeting in Paris in August-December. In May, a subcommittee is to meet.

With the entry of Turkey, the whole length of the TSL is 18,134 kilometers, up from 14,000 kilometers, and participating firms increased to 13 from 12 countries, including Korea, the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Germany, Denmark (two firms), France, Spain and Australia.

Report on Soviet Notice of Arms Sales Denied

SK2103020891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The Foreign Ministry flatly denied a local report yesterday that the Soviet Union promised to give a prior notice to the South Korean government over its military sales to North Korea, a long-time ally.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chong Ui-yong said, "The government has never received any notice from the Soviet Union over the question. Nor has the government discussed with the Soviet government about it," said the ministry spokesman.

Industrial Standards Accord Sought With Moscow

SK2203040691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—South Korea hopes to sign a business cooperation accord with the Soviet Union on the mutual recognition of industrial standards, sources at the Industrial Advancement Administration (IAA) said Friday.

Chong Su-ung, IAA director general for standards, was in Moscow March 9-18 to discuss the matter with officials of the state committee for product quality control and standards, the sources said.

The two sides, they said, have drafted an agreement on mutual exchange of state standards of the two countries, tie-ups in standardization and reciprocal recognition of the Korean standard, KS, and the Soviet state standard, GOST. The agreement will boost bilateral economic exchange and technological cooperation between the two countries by clearing technical difficulties arising from discord in standards.

Korea also expects Soviet assistance in establishing cooperation in the international standards field with other countries.

The heads of IAA and the Soviet committee are expected to sign the agreement in July, after completion of working-level procedures in the first half of the year, according to the sources.

Companies Plan Oil Exploration in SRV Field

SK2003013891 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 20 Mar 91 p 12

[Text] Seven major firms—Hyundai, Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar, Yukong, Ssangyong, Daesung and Korea Petroleum Development Corp.—plan to form a consortium for exploration of the Big Bear oil field off the Vietnamese coast in a joint venture with Vietsovpetro Co. of Vietnam established in a joint venture between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, according to industry sources yesterday. The Big Bear field reportedly contains an estimated 200 million barrels of crude oil.

More on Consortium Plans

SK1703061691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 91 p 9

[Text] A consortium of seven Korean companies is moving ahead with plans to tap oilfields off Vietnam in a joint venture with the Soviet Union.

They are Samsung, Hyundai, Lucky-Goldstar, Daewoo, Ssangyong, the state-run Korea Petroleum Development Corporation and Daesung Consolidated Coal Mining Co.

The consortium sent a fact-finding mission to Vietnam Feb. 21- March 12 to make a feasibility study on the oil development project in Vietnam, the Energy-Resources Ministry said yesterday.

Ministry officials said the Korean consortium is seeking to win an oil development concession in the "Big-Bear" block off south Vietnam where vast reserves of oil are reportedly buried.

If the block proves to be economical, the consortium would begin developing the block jointly with a Soviet company, the officials said.

Korean shares in the oil venture are supposed to be split evenly among the Korean participants.

But it is still unclear whether the venture will be realized because Korean businesses are bound with economic sanctions imposed on Vietnam by the United States, the ministry said.

Six Company Branches To Open in Vietnam

SK2203055891 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that the government gave some ROK companies formal permission to open their branch offices in Vietnam.

It was learned on 21 March that the government gave permission to open six branch offices in Vietnam—the Hanoi branch office of Samsung Trading Corporation and the Ho Chi Minh branch office of Hyundai, Daewoo, Sunkyong, Lucky-Gold Star, and Kolon.

It was also learned that permission will be given to Hyosong and Kohap Trading Corporations to open branch offices in Ho Chi Minh City, and that permission will be given to the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation to establish a trading company in Ho Chi Minh City.

Such permission to open branches in Vietnam was given at a time when prospects are bright for the improvement of relations between the United States and Vietnam. Meanwhile, the government lifted a ban on trade with Vietnam last month.

Businesses predict that trade with Vietnam will be greatly promoted as a result of this permission.

Meanwhile, the volume of trade between the ROK and Vietnam was $150 million last year; the ROK exported $117 million of goods to Vietnam and imported $33 million of goods from Vietnam. It is expected that the trade volume will reach approximately $200 million to $300 million this year.

Nuclear Research Group Signs Pact With French

SK1103101891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0935 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (YONHAP)—The Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) and France's Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique (CEA) have signed an agreement on joint research in the safety of pressurized water reactors, a KAERI spokesman said Monday.

"Under the agreement, signed by KAERI President Han Pil-sun and French Ambassador Hubert de la Fortelle, on behalf of CEA, on Friday, we will directly participate in CEA's large-scale research and test projects during 1991-1997 and get sophisticated technology related to safety of pressurized water reactors," he said.

"KAERI and two French institutes under the CEA umbrella will especially concentrate on joint tests on design basis accident and fission product release during accidents involving pressurized water reactors in 1991-97."

Two KAERI researchers will be sent to France for the tests.

Korean nuclear researchers have so far done safety tests on parts of nuclear power plants such as the reactor and containment in cooperation with U.S. experts.

Some experts predict the KAERI-CEA agreement will contribute to the enhancement of the safety of nuclear power plants ecomonically since KAERI may use the results of the CEA large-scale research tests in return for 1 percent of the total research costs.

Election Committee Fears Turnout Below Half

SK2103021991 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] It is feared that turnout in the March 26 local assembly elections will be below 50 percent because of widespread public apathy over the balloting, election management officials said yesterday. The prediction is based on the small number of people who have viewed lists of voters at election management offices nationwide.

According to the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), the number of people who confirmed their voting rights from March 14-16 totaled 7,359,144 or 26 percent of the total 28,274,843 eligible voters throughout the country.

The comparable figure stood at 49.5 percent for the last presidential election in December 1987 and 42.7 percent for the parliamentary elections in April 1988.

The voter turnout reached 89.2 percent and 75.8 percent for the presidential and parliamentary elections, respectively.

Election management officials expressed worry that the voter turnout for the coming local elections would be below 50 percent.

Wolgyesuhoe Group Intensifies Its Activities

SK2203075191 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 20 Mar 91 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Yong-ho: "Wolgyesuhoe Is Active Again"]

[Text] As Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam hastens his pace toward a presidential candidacy, the moves of the Wolgyesuhoe [a group within the DLP headed by Pak Chol-on, incumbent sports and youth minister] have become conspicuous.

When Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam strongly suggested on 14 March that he wants the party's national convention for choosing a presidential candidate to be held earlier than scheduled following the local council elections, the Wolgyesuhoe, headed by Pak Chol-on is reported to have deployed its organizations in "combat formation" getting itself ready for a head-on clash with the Kim Yong-sam faction.

At the same time, the loyal Wolgyesuhoe organisations, which have been hidden or camouflaged so far, are emerging one after another, giving the impression that these organizations are getting ready for a major struggle for the presidential candidacy.

Of course, the key figures of the Wolgyesuhoe are flatly denying this speculation by outsiders.

However, the Wolgyesuhoe has consistently expanded its power to become the largest faction within the Democratic Justice Party [DJP]. Thus, the Wolgyesuhoe is not hiding its moves to cut out the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] faction led by Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

When Executive Chairman Kim challenged Chongwadae [presidential office], saying, "I will consider an early convocation of the party's national convention in June," the Wolgyesuhoe camp was ready to fight back, saying that it did not care, if the national convention were held according to the party's constitution and rules.

Lawmaker Kim Chong-kil, a key staff member of Wolgyesuhoe, expressed confidence about the competition, saying, "We will not object to the party's early national convention or anything else if it is held according to the party's constitution and rules," adding, "The issue of the national convention, however, should be decided by the party's president."

This response of Wolgyesuhoe to the RDP faction's call for an early convocation of the national convention is alluded to openly by Wolgyesuhoe members other than lawmaker Kim; therefore, it seems that Wolgyesuhoe has formulated its strategy against the attack from the Sangdo-tong [Kim Yong-sam faction] camp.

That Wolgyesuhoe claims that the national convention should be held according to the party's constitution and rules means that the RDP faction should collect the signatures of a third of the nearly 2,000 Standing Committee members or get the approval of the party's president to convene the national convention.

This means that the RDP faction will have to be evaluated at the party's convention through competition after completing all necessary procedures. Under such circumstances, the Wolgyesuhoe can recommend Minister Pak as a contender or stage a "coup d'etat" by supporting a third candidate according to a signal from Chongwadae.

Wolgyesuhoe, while repeatedly stating, "We will not do anything to embarrass the president," is expressing this resolve to fight, perhaps because it has its own agenda.

Last November, Lawmaker Na Chang-chu, making an opening address at the "Seminar on Nordpolitik and ROK-USSR Relations," praised Minister Pak describing him as "a rising sun," and suffered thereafter from that slip of the tongue. However, some note that this slip of the tongue was deliberate.

There was also a rumor that members of the Wolgyesuhoe are calling Minister Pak "the elder" [orusin], which has become a topic of gossip in Seoul. Some observe that these slips of the tongue, which caused laughter, may have been made deliberately through the meticulous calculation that "it is better for him to be remembered than forgotten."

However, expressing his displeasure and saying, "They carry their intrigue against us too far," a member of the Wolgyesuhoe also said that "on the morning of 19 March Minister Pak was enraged by being called 'elder' [orusin], saying how on earth did it happen?" This same man, saying, "How dare we use the word 'elder' when we call him?," disclosed that members of the Wolgyesuhoe call him "Minister Pak" with the suffix of "kkeso."

When the term "a rising sun" aroused people's criticism, there were critical voices reportedly suggesting that "lawmaker Na Chang-chu leave the post of director of the Northern Policy Research Institute for the time being to show his penitence." However, some people reportedly assumed a generous attitude, saying, "anyone could have made a mistake."

Also, the existence of the Taejihoe (headed by lawmaker Choe Un-chi), which is different from the Wolgyesuhoe, was confirmed recently. Following this, it was disclosed that the Institute of Unification and Welfare Affairs (headed by lawmaker Kim Chong-kil), an organization similar to the Northern Policy Research Institute, was in operation. These facts interest us.

It has been learned that the Institute of Unification and Welfare Affairs, which opened last September in the Iljin building located in Mapo, Seoul, not only studies the unification question, juvenile affairs, and the affairs of the welfare of the aged, but also plays the role of managing Minister Pak's political image and providing political funds for him.

The Taejihoe, whose organization two years ago has been confirmed, was founded by 20 lawmakers of the DLP. Members belonging to DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan's faction within the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] clique insist that the Taejihoe belongs to Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan's faction. However, the Wolgyesuhoe denies this, saying, "The Taejihoe's motto is national reconciliation, democratic development, and national unification, and it has frequently held joint meetings with the Wolgyesuhoe."

Lawmaker Kim Chong-kil stated, "The Taejihoe was organized by those who like the president and who share the same political ideals and goals. They just play golf and dine together."

Members of the Taejihoe include lawmakers Cho Yong-chang (manager), Pak U-pyong, Kim Chong-ki, Kim Kil-hong, An Yong-ki, Pak Chin-ku, Yi Sang-tuk, Hwang Yun-ki, Chang Yong-chol, Ko Se-chin, Hwang Song-kyun, Pak Chi-won, and Yi Yong-mun. It has been learned that they met with members of the Wolgyesuhoe at the Garden Hotel in Seoul on the evening of 9 February.

The Wolgyesuhoe originally planned not only to hold a rally to reorganize and strengthen its organizational structure, but also, begining in February, to open in Seoul workshops and training courses for its members throughout the country, in a bid to earnestly manage and operate this organization. However, this plan has reportedly been put off until after June.

Some 700 leading members of this organization from provinces throughout the country planned to hold a meeting on 15 March, but this has been delayed until after the local council elections.

It has been learned, however, that core elements of this organization and chieftans from local branch organizations not only meet once a month on a regular basis, but also meet whenever they need.

Now that members of the Wolgyesuhoe have displayed close solidarity in many fields regardless of whether outsiders are watching or not, the possibility of this organization having an effect on choosing the DLP presidential candidate is still on the increase.

Kim Tae-chung on Election as DLP, PPD Race

SK2203041591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung urged voters Friday to remember the Suso housing scandal and cast their ballots against the ruling party in next week's local elections.

Accusing the government of using the national security, military intelligence and tax agencies to intervene in the elections, the head of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] said the elections were a direct battle between the ruling and opposition parties rather than between candidates. Political parties are banned by law from nominating or supporting candidates.

Kim, in a news conference just days before the Tuesday polls, accused the government of trying to cover up the Suso scandal by calling an early election, attempting to create a virtual single-party system based on the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and of neglecting economic and security issues.

The people, he said, should be the judges of this.

South Koreans go to the polls twice, once this month and once within three months, as local autonomy is resurrected after a 30-year hibernation.

The election is turning into a race between the PPD and DLP, Kim said.

"We ask for active support of the PPD, the only opposition party participating in the elections, so that we can at least maintain a two-party system with ruling and opposition camps," he said.

The government had made the people "deaf, dumb and blind" by prosecuting campaign violations, and the intelligence and tax agencies had "threatened" more than 2,000 candidates to make them withdraw from the race, Kim claimed.

"The ruling party has 80 percent of the candidates in the elections, and the second goal is to complete their domination through the next round of local elections," he said.

DLP Appoints Additional 'Vice Spokesmen'

SK2203010091 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] In apparent preparations for the coming local and national elections, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) has doubled the number of its vicemen from three to six.

The new vice spokesmen, Pak Pom-chin, Yi Won-chong and Cho Yong-chik, are not lawmakers at present. They are all based in Seoul.

The three were added since the existing vice spokesmen, all from provincial areas, are busy with their own business, said aides of party Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam yesterday.

However, observers said the ruling party's move is seen as more of a strategy to beef up its public relations in preparation for a series of elections.

Meanwhile, Pak once worked for the vernacular Choson Ilbo, Yi is a confidant of Kim Yong-sam and Cho is close to Kim Chong-pil, co-chairman of the government party. Pak represents lawmakers of the former ruling party, who now form the largest faction in the DLP.

Foreign Ministry To Play Bigger Role in Trade

SK2203005991 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will add a new role as the key channel for trade negotiations to meet mounting pressure from foreign countries seeking to pry local markets wide open. The Foreign Ministry will also become a major coordinator of the government foreign trade policy.

These changes were contained in a package of measures to reinforce trade diplomacy reported to President No Tae-u in a meeting of relevant ministers at Chongwadae yesterday.

All problems relating to foreign trade will now be dealt with through close coordination and consultations with the Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said that trade friction with foreign countries will continue as South Korean trade volume is increasing and foreign market-opening pressure is expanded into agricultural products, copyrights and patents, communications and the service industry.

The coordination of external trade policies and negotiations have been separately assigned to the Economic Planning Board and the Foreign Ministry, respectively, since the early 1980s.

As a result, government trade policies have been incoherent at times, a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

However, trade negotiations over specific sectors will continue to be conducted by relevant ministries.

Policy coordination on external economic policies will be strengthened among relevant ministries. To ensure concurrence, assistant ministers of the related ministries will hold a consultative meeting once or twice a month.

Foreign Ministry officials will be assigned to government posts relating to trade and negotiations so that they may become experts on specific sectors such as the Uruguay Round talks and trade negotiations with the United States.

Experts on trade problems will be deployed to major Korean embassies in the United States, Japan, Geneva, EC and Thailand.

Tariff Rate Cut Set for 'High-Tech' Industries

SK2203010591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 22 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] Seven high-tech industries, plus defense industry will receive a 40-60 percent cut in tariff rates on the import of related facilities and materials starting March 28, the Ministry of Finance said yesterday.

The seven high-tech fields are microelectronics, mechatronics, new materials, precision chemistry, biology, laser & light, and aircraft.

The temporary tariff reduction favor will be given to 147 business lines of the high-tech industries from March 28, 1991 through the end of 1993, a ministry spokesman said.

The details of the 147 business lines, including semiconductor manufacturing and laser disk businesses, will be made public later next week, the spokesman said.

Presently, a 30 percent reduction in import duties has been applied only to electronics and machinery sectors.

The ministry's move is designed to strengthen the international competitiveness of the domestic high-tech industry, which will play a pivotal role in putting Korea on the level of advanced countries, he said.

The tariff cut rate, however, will be reduced on a gradual basis from 60 percent in 1991 to 50 percent in 1992, and further to 40 percent in 1993 in an attempt to minimize the imbalance of taxational supports to domestic industries.

With the 40-60 percent cut in tariff rates, the nation's high-tech and defense industries will be able to pay import duties amounting to a mere 5.2-5.5 percent of imported goods.

At the same time, the tariff reduction favor will help the high-tech industries save a total of 282 billion won in the coming three years—110 billion won in 1991, 95 billion won in 1992, and 77 billion won in 1993.

Facility investments by high-tech industries are expected to reach 2,366 billion won in 1991, 2,878 billion won in 1992, and 3,544 billion won in 1993, the ministry said.

SWIFT Financial Network Allows Banks To Join

SK1603031291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 16 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—South Korean banks will be hooked up with an international financial service network that uses computers instead of telex machines for communications and transactions from March next year, the Bank of Korea (BOK) said Saturday.

The board of directors of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), meeting on the Italian island of Sicily, decided March 13 to give membership to 25 regional banks and 24 branches of international banks, officials at the central bank said.

SWIFT is a computerized telecommunications system that is used by financial institutes to remit and transfer funds, open letters of credit and transmit messages, the officials said.

The SWIFT network, established in 1973 and headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, has over 3,000 members in 83 countries.

It will take the Korean central bank about a year to complete its preparations, choosing computer hardware and software and consulting with the Korea Financial Telecommunications and Clearings Institute.

Services for foreign exchange currency fund, collection, and securities are also available.

Electronic Export Figures Projected To Increase

SK1103053991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0243 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (YONHAP)—The Trade and Industry Ministry projects South Korea's electronic and electric exports at 4.45 billion U.S. dollars in the first quarter of the year, up 14.3 percent from a year earlier.

Samsung, Goldstar, Daewoo and Hyundai led January exports but medium-sized firms were hit hard, according to a recent report on 50 Korean electronic and electric makers.

Big companies are expected to expand about 15 percent over a year earlier on the strength of their exports of semi-conductors, color television sets, and video cassette recorders, it said.

Shipments to the Middle East accounted for 2 percent of the total, about 350 million dollars, but will rise 23.5 percent to 430 million dollars this year because of post-war demand for electric home appliances, batteries and magnetic tapes.

Last year's exports of electric and electronic goods were 17.8 billion dollars, up 4.3 percent from 1989.

Semiconductors, color television sets, computer peripherals, facsimiles and magnetic heads showed strong, but video cassette recorders, electronic ranges, telephones and audio sets were in little demand, it said.

Competition Said Needed To Stabilize Prices

SK2203055391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0514 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, saying the economy had to be seen from an international perspective, told local businessmen Friday competition was needed in the agricultural and service sectors to stabilize prices.

"The price hikes have recently been centered around agricultural and service sectors, which have their limit in improving productivity and relatively smaller competitions," he said in a lunch sponsored by the Federation of Korean Industries.

Choe, who is also economic planning minister, found fault with the manufacturing sector for failing to maintain and expand its competitive power and so being unable to absorb cost increases.

Businesses should develop marketing and management strategies that assume the market is completely opened, while the government should alter domestic restrictions and laws to conform with international standards, he said.

"It's time for the nation to coolly examine where its economy stands and how to cope with the latest global economic developments featured by a strengthened role of the United States on the international scene after the Gulf war, the resumption of the Uruguay Round and signs of rising regionalism in the European Community and North America," Choe said.

Harmonious relations between management and labor are needed to deal with external challenges and competitions expected to follow domestic market opening.

In relation to trade friction with the United States, he said that the nation could reach a fundamental solution by realigning its economic structure and introducing external competitors on its own judgement and planning, while making efforts to improve situations that might be seen as discriminatory by foreigners.

Firms Plan Increased Computer Chip Production

SK2003065491 Seoul KOREA DAILY in English 20 Mar 91 p 12

[Text] Domestic semiconductor makers will probably begin full-scale production of a Mega DRAM [dynamic random access memory] computer chips in the second half of the year as Japanese electronic firms are about to increase their output of the item, an industrial source said yesterday.

Samsung Electronics Co., which has turned out 500,000 4 Mega DRAMs a month since the second half of 1990, plans to double production to 1 million a month this year.

Hyundai Electronic Industry Co. expects to make 100,000 in May and increase its capacity to 1.5 million a month by the end of the year, the source said.

Goldstar Electron Co. will produce its first 4 Mega DRAM in June or July and make 500,000 a month by the end of the year. Japan's Toshiba and Nippon Electric Co. (NEC) produce 2 million 4 Mega DRAMS a month each and Hitachi is close behind.

The Japanese semiconductor makers are cutting production of 1 Mega DRAMS in an attempt to replace them with the 4 Mega DRAM.

Global sales of 4 Mega DRAM semiconducters are expected to increase from an estimated 160 million this year to 300 million next year. The 4 Mega DRAM will supercede the 1 Mega DRAM in the world semiconductor market in 1993, the source said. A 4 Mega DRAM sells for 18 to 20 U.S. dollars, and a 1 Mega DRAM for 4.5 dollars.

Hyundai Reportedly To Export Cars to Mongolia

SK2003020091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] Hyundai Motor will load 50 Excels at its Ulsan port, Kyongsangnam-to, tomorrow for shipment to Mongolia.

The company said that they will be delivered to Mongol Inpex, a Mongolian state-run enterprise, via Xingang in China by train.

It is the first time that Korean-made motor vehicles will be exported to Mongolia with which Korea established full-diplomatic ties in March last year.

Hyundai Motor, the nation's largest automaker, said that it will ship an additional 300 Excels to Mongolia within this year.

Crude Steel Production, Consumption Statistics

SK1503025491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 15 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea turned out 23.125 million tons of crude steel last year and consumed 21.292 million tons, ranking seventh in the world in both categories, the Korea Iron and Steel Association [KISA] said Friday.

Korea was eighth largest steel maker in 1989, trailing the Soviet Union, Japan, the United States, China, West Germany, Italy and Brazil. In 1990, it was behind the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan, China, West Germany and Italy.

Per capita consumption was 498 kilograms last year, up from 432 kilograms in 1989. Only four nations consumed more than 500 kilograms per capita as of the end of 1989: Japan, 754 kilograms; the Soviet Union, 582 kilograms; West Germany, 576 kilograms; and Canada, 529 kilograms. Although figures for 1990 are unavailable, KISA estimates that Korea was in the top five.

Korea's steel stockpile amounted to 107.439 million tons as of the end of 1989, or 2,535 kilograms per capita.

The high levels of output, consumption and stockpiles were attributed to brisk facility investments, led by the state-run Pohang Iron and Steel Co., and persistent demand increases in the construction, car, electric and electronic industries, KISA said.

KYONGHYANG SINMUN To Become Morning Paper

SK2103001191 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 20 Mar 91 p 1

[KYONGHYANG SINMUN announcement]

[Text] Beginning 1 April 1991, KYONGHYANG SINMUN will be published in the morning. As a result, readers in the neighboring areas of the capital—including Seoul, Kangwon Province, Chungchong Province, and part of North Cholla Province—which used to get the first and third edition of KYONGHYANG SINMUN in the evening will now get their copies of KYONGHYANG SINMUN in the morning, as will readers in Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju. We have decided to turn KYONGHYANG SINMUN into a morning paper based on our judgment that, as in the United States and Japan, the market for news media is expected to undergo a great change. Korean newspapers which have entered an era of competition for quality over quantity, including increases in pages, are in need of new measures to meet the demands of readers for changes in quality. So, turning KYONGHYANG SINMUN into a morning paper does not stop at changing the publishing time but will also include substantial changes in content, including news selection, page layout, special reports accompanied by color photographs, and supplements suitable to the information era. We promise to be a "readable paper" by sharpening our critical spirit, as symbolized in our slogan "We will speak out and write out if necessary," and by printing articles that attract the readers' attention. We expect warmer affection and greater support from the readers than ever.

No Stresses Price Stabilization for Workers

SK1203011591 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday pledged an all-out effort by the government to stabilize prices for the benefit of wage earners and people in low-income brackets.

"The government will mobilize every policy means available to curb rises in rents, daily necessities prices and public utilities charges since they greatly affect the livelihood of low wage earners," he said. The President was talking with some 100 exemplary workers, who were cited by the government on the occasion of Workers' Day which fell on Sunday, during a tea party at Chongwadae.

Explaining the nation's economic circumstances following the Gulf War, No said that the "core task of our economy is to increase the vitality and international competitive power of our industries."

"We also have to do our part to see that industrial peace takes root on the basis of cooperative relations between labor and management, and to solidify the basis for stable prices and wages," he said.

As for labor-management relations these days, the Chief Executive expressed that "they are taking the right course and efforts to further consolidate them are required."

"If the labor movement resorts to radical ideology and actions, it will adversely affect our national economy and will be criticized by the people which in turn will bring about a lawful crackdown," he said.

Charges for Services, Utilities Rise 9.3 Percent

SK1803030391 Seoul YONHAP in English 0220 GMT 18 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 18 (YONHAP)—A rapid increase in the cost of public utilities and private services triggered sharp price rises last year, according to data released Monday by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry [KCCI].

KCCI said public utility and private service charges rose 9.3 percent last year, their biggest jump since 1982, and the consumer price index shot up 9.4 percent.

Charges for electricity and gas increased 4.5 percent, and the cost of baths and hair cuts went up 15.8 percent.

Eating out and hotel costs rose 13.3 percent and 40 percent, respectively, while tuition and medical treatment climbed 5.8 percent and 57.1 percent, it said.

Bath, laundry and maid costs rose 8.7 percent to 50 percent.

Aeronautical Telecommunication Systems Planned

SK1103130491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1019 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 11 (YONHAP)—Korea Telecom said Monday it will be possible for South Korean airlines to put telephones on their planes next year.

The state-run firm will import relay systems in 1992 and set up independent earth stations between 1995 and 1997, transmitting communications via the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (INMARSAT).

The relays will enable airborne callers to reach earthbound subscribers via an INMARSAT satellite, an earth station and an international telephone line.

Subscribers can call an airplane and have a passenger paged.

"Relayed aeronautical communication is possible, just as telephone communications with a deep-sea ship was possible before last week with no independent earth station," a Telecom official said. "But subscribers need equipment such as a satellite dish, just as the ships do."

Airphones were enthusiastically welcomed by Asiana Airlines, but Korean Air is silent.

At present, earth stations are operated or planned by the United States, Japan, Singapore and the Soviet Union in the Pacific; by Japan, France, the Soviet Union, Norway and Australia in the Indian Ocean; and by Britain, France, Canada, Italy, Germany and the Soviet Union in the Atlantic Ocean.

Telecom hopes to reach accords with more than one country for each region. With the relay service launched, people anywhere on the earth or in the sky can talk to each other.

The equipment costs 250 million U.S. dollars a plane and a high relay cost is likely to make calls exhorbitantly expensive and limit the number of users for the time being.

As of June 1990, 1,260 U.S. and 110 Japanese planes had airphones for domestic routes and they did not appear on international flights until late last year.

Aeromobile communications, however, are in wide use, providing phone, facsimile and computer services. Some air companies have installed handsets in every seat, but incoming calls still have to be connected by air crew. In the year 2000, direct calls are likely because each passenger will carry their own telephone.

Burma

Questionaire Seen as Step Toward New Constitution

BK2203081591 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 21 Mar 91

[From the "Current International Affairs" program]

[Text] According to reports received from Myanmar [Burma], the Myanmar military government has asked politicians about their views on political issues in an extensive questionaire. The BBC correspondent in the Far East reports that diplomats based in Yangon [Rangoon] are viewing this questionaire, which they believe is part of a rather belated measure to draft Myanmar's constitution, with scepticism.

According to the diplomats, the long questionaire contains over 300 questions asking the politicians for their views and opinions on a wide range of political issues. Among the questions were those related to the 1947 State Constitution, the 1974 State Constitution, whether they approve of the 1962 coup d'etat, what their attitude toward the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] government is, and their views on the new constitution.

It has been 10 months since the parliamentary elections were held in Myanmar. There are various opinions about this step taken by the SLORC. The SLORC has effectively paralyzed the activities of the National League for Democracy [NLD], which won a landslide victory in the elections, and minor political parties, by imprisoning their elected representatives and members. There are also different views on how serious the SLORC is on drafting the new constitution, considering it has not even drawn up a definite timetable for a transfer of power.

Taking a positive and optimistic view, a diplomat sees this step taken by the SLORC as a sincere attempt to find out the views of the politicians on various issues. The diplomat said, however, that from a negative standpoint it can been seen as an attempt to sort out the troublemakers. Even if the politicians answer these questions honestly and truthfully they are likely to face antagonism in their dealings with the authorities. If they give the answers the military government would like to hear, these answers could be used later on against them publicly

Another diplomat views the questionaire with complete distrust, saying that the questionaire would be used against the politicians to dismiss them from their seats in the parliament and from the political movement. Currently, there are concerns about the likelihood of the military authorities investigating the expense accounts for the last elections to remove the politicians from their posts. The soliciting of views and opinions from the politicians can be interpreted as a single indication that the SLORC is currently thinking about drafting a new constitution. The diplomats accepted the view that the Myanmar people are resigned to the fact that the military government is likely to hold on to power indefinitely. According to one source, the SLORC is likely to remain in power in Myanmar for another three to four years considering the hints it has been giving about methodical steps in holding a national convention, drafting and promulgation of a new constitution by the national assembly, and holding of a national referendum and another elections. This source doubts whether the parliament elected in the last May elections will be able to meet as a national assembly because the original members of the parliamnent are viewed by the military government as antagonistic toward their objectives.

BBC on Resignation of NLD's Myint Myint Khin

BK2203090691 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1330 GMT 21 Mar 91

[From the "Current International Affairs" program]

[Text] According to reports from Myanmar [Burma], Daw Myint Myint Khin, one of the leaders of the National League for Democracy [NLD], has resigned from the Central Committee. Daw Myint Myint Khin was an ardent and close supporter of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Neil Kelly from Bangkok reports on the resignation as follows:

Like Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Myint Myint Khin was detained for nine months without trial. She was released last April. She was one of the persons who played a leading role in the struggle for a democratic government. In her capacity as secretary of the Bar Council in Yangon [Rangoon] she wrote a letter to the government in August 1988 denouncing the military for killing hundreds of unarmed civilians during demonstrations. This was the first act of protest. Those who know her believe she may have resigned from the party because she believes it is better to step aside rather than give in to government pressure to dissociate herself from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

When she was released from her detention, the military government's newspapers carried a pledge implying she had nothing to do with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. However, diplomats in Yangon believed the statement was fabricated by the military government. The diplomats said her resignation shows that the NLD, which is in near disintegration, could no longer function as a coherent force against the military government. She was the last of the effective NLD leaders; the others remain under detention.

The backbone of the party, which at one time had 3 million members across the country, has been broken. The three remaining members of the central committee are elderly retired military officials who are close to the military circles.

More Insurgents Surrender to Military Commands

BK2203095491 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] More members of various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been surrendering to military units with assorted arms and ammunition after giving up the armed struggle policy.

Eastern Military Command: Medic Nyunt Wai alias Ko Ye from the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front] 601st Battalion surrendered at Taunggyi garrison while Privates Khin Maung Nyein and Aik Lau from the SURA [Shan United Revolutionary Army] 275th Brigade surrendered, giving up one M-16 assault rifle, one M-21 assault rifle, and one M-22 assault rifle at Lai-hka garrison.

Southeast Military Command: Private Zaw Win Tint from the KNU [Karen National Union] 102d Battalion surrendered at Myawadi garrison. Platoon commander Maung Maung from the ABSDF 208th Battalion surrendered along with one AK-47 assault rifle at Bilin People's Police Force, while platoon commander Maung Maung alias Aung Min surrendered along with one AK-47 assault rifle at Mergui People's Police Force.

Northeast Military Command: Political officer Than Lwin, Battalion Commander El Zaw Naw, (?Shan) officer in charge Win Thein, Superintendent Min Thu Han, and Privates Aye Thu, Kyaw Htay, Thaung Tun Hlaing, Ne Myo Naing, Khin Nyunt, Kyaw Win, Thein Lwin, Zaw Zaw, Win Mya, and Myo Myint U from the ABSDF 401st Battalion and Thura Aung from the 501st Battalion surrendered along with two assault rifles at Mong Kya garrison. Privcate Ai Lun from the SURA surrendered along with one M-22 assault rifle at Mei Kin garrison.

Northern Military Command: Private Zau Lon from the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] surrendered at Aung Mye Thit garrison.

Authorities concerned at respective garrisons warmly welcomed those who surrendered.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister To Explain Proposal in Japan, ROK

BK2203100091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0335 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 22 (OANA-BERNAMA)—International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz will visit Japan and South Korea next month to further explain Malaysia's proposal on the East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) to the leaders of those countries.

She told reporters here Thursday that it was hoped that with the explanation those countries would support the proposal.

Officials were now preparing a more detailed paper on the EAEG, which would cover not only the concept but the approach, for distribution to ASEAN countries, she added.

"We will also distribute the paper to countries interested in the proposal," she said.

Rafidah did not say whether the paper would be ready before her trip to Japan. The Japanese Government has not officially voiced support for the proposal.

South America Targeted as New Palm Oil Market

BK2003113691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 20 (AFP)—The [semi-official, partly state-funded] Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia (PORIM) has identified South American countries as new markets for Malaysia's palm oil, officials said Wednesday.

PORIM Director-General Abdul Halim Mohd Hassan said that South American countries like Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia currently consume some 600,000 tonnes of palm oil a year.

"At the moment we don't know how much they can really take but we definitely have to put in more effort in pushing it there," Mr. Halim said.

A PORIM official said that a mission was being planned to promote palm oil consumption in South American countries this year.

Malaysia is the world's largest producer and exporter of palm oil with production amounting to 6.09 million tonnes last year.

Exports, which stood at 4.452 million tonnes in the first 11 months of last year, went mainly to China, Singapore, Pakistan, India, the European Economic Community and Egypt.

Environmental Groups Faulted for Timber Boycott

BK2003131991 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] At the same time last year, the International Tropical Timber Organization, ITTO, (indicated) Malaysia to check on its forest conservation policies. After having studied conservation measures in the timber-rich state of Sarawak, they concluded the country's forest management system as among the best in the world. In fact, it was the state government which invited the ITTO team to assess these sustainable utilization and conservation of tropical forests.

At this juncture, it is worthwhile to recall the study was conducted amidst accusations by so-called European environmental groups that Malaysia was destroying its forest resources. But the ITTO team concluded otherwise. Also at the same time, the antitropical timber campaign was being aggressively launched by the environmental groups. To the European community and the groups concerned, it seemed a popular cause, but they failed to realize that for developing countries like Malaysia it was a matter of economic survival. Malaysia was deeply concerned about the campaign as it resulted in some EC countries boycotting tropical timber.

To date it is very difficult to verify whether such campaigns have died down. This is in view that the campaigns were more often than not initiated for the selfish interests of certain groups. Business interest was a most probable explanation. Over the years tropical hardwood has been competing successfully against European softwood. As a result, many European firms seem to be losing their markets as tropical timber is cheaper. To counter this they accused Malaysia of depleting its forest resources.

The boycott by EC countries could also backfire. If there is too much pressure on developing countries, then forest lands may be cleared for agriculture and other development purposes. The timber industry plays an important role in the Malaysian economy and employs some 162,000 people. In this field, European lobby groups failed to realize, they also practise double standards. They do not take their own governments to task for the millions of forest lands wasted due to indiscriminate logging.

If these groups are truly concerned, they should encourage the relocation of timber-based industries into the timber-producing countries. Industrialized countries on their part could lower their barriers against timber-manufactured products. These restrictions on imports only retard industrialization and encourage more trade to be soured. This being the case, Malaysia makes no apologies for trying to improve the economic livelihood of its people, but it is nevertheless concerned over the protection of the environment. It is proud of its rain forests. It takes great pains to manage them.

The Langkawi Declaration on Environment which Malaysia mooted and supported, bears testimony of its concern for the environment. It is about time Malaysia is given due credit for its forest management policies. The so-called environmental groups should, meanwhile, stop looking for scapegoats elsewhere. Instead, they should start looking at the mess they have created in their own backyard.

Cambodia

Agricultural, Industrial Production Reported

BK2203064491 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0422 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 22—By early this month, peasants throughout the country had grown 103,990 ha of rice, fulfilling 64 percent of the plan for the current dry-season rice cropping.

Rice production is one of the four economic spearheads, namely food, rubber, timber, and fishing adopted by the fifth party congress in its program for national economic rehabilitation and development.

According to the statistics of the Agronomy Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, the cultivated area was 2,880 ha more than the same period last year, thanks to the late-monsoon rainfall in most localities which enabled the peasants to store enough water for the cultivation.

Among the four biggest dry-season rice producers, (Kandal, Takeo, Prey Veng and Kompong Cham), Takeo Province, 90 km from Phnom Penh, to the south, took the lead with 35,600 ha of rice, achieving 96 percent of its target.

The department said that rice cultivation in the current dry season would be done on a larger area than last year and with a higher output thanks to favourable weather.

In rubber production, during the same period, the workers of the General Department for Rubber Plantation tapped 43,660 ha of rubber trees, or 97 percent of the yearly target, and produced 3,770 tons of solidified latex.

The department now manages six rubber companies, namely the Jan. 7, Friendship, Solidarity, Krek, Beng Ket, and Dec. 2. The companies of Krek, Beng Ket and Dec. 2 are the newly set-up ones.

Timber production in the same period reached 542,490 cubic metres of timber, or 15 per cent of the yearly target.

The Forest and Wildlife Department under the Ministry of Agriculture has exported 7,570 cubic metres of timber. Fish catch in the country has attained 50 percent of the yearly target with 28,000 tons of fish netted so far, or 3,550 tons more than the same period last year.

The Aquatic Products Department, also under the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the increase of fish catch this year resulted from the rising tide of rivers in the last monsoon which created favourable conditions for fish to spawn.

Special Ranariddh Message on Funcinpec Founding

BK2103153191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Special message from Prince Norodom Ranariddh, personal representative of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia and secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, Funcipec, in Oddar Meanchey Province on 21 March on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia—recorded]

[Text] I, Norodom Ranariddh, would like to express most profound respect to the venerable monks and to all the beloved compatriots, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, and aunts:

Today [words indistinct] is the 10th founding anniversary of our patriotic movement—that is, the National

United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [Funcinpec].

I have the great honor to address this special message to all monks and beloved compatriots both inside and outside the country as follows:

Our resistance movement—that is, the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, or Funcinpec in short, using the French acronym—was born and has developed ceaselessly in the past more than 10 years thanks to the royal edicts of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, our respected samdech euv and great leader, after our Cambodia was invaded and occupied by Vietnam, internationally called the SRV troops, which have oppressed, repressed, and massacred our people, and robbed from our people our glorious property, cultural heritages, territory, and resources, thus causing untold suffering, separation, and tragedies to our Cambodian people.

Beloved compatriots, during the past more than 10 years if not for the Cambodian resistance movements, particularly our Funcinpec and the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC], formerly called the Sihanoukist National Army, our Cambodia might have been turned into the second Kampuchea Kraom—a province of Vietnam—and our compatriots, grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, and aunts might have already become Vietnam's ethnic minorities. It was because of our patriotic Cambodian sons and daughters, both civilian and military, who have resolutely made all kinds of sacrifices, physically, mentally, intellectually, and materially, that the Vietnamese enemy aggressors have been shamefully defeated and have failed to annex our valuable Cambodian territory as one of their provinces.

In the past more than a decade, not only have all the Cambodian resistance movements, particularly Funcinpec under the wise and correct policy of the esteemed samdech euv, frustrated the Vietnamese schemes to annex our Cambodian territory, but they have also plunged the Vietnamese enemies into an impasse and caused them to be condemned by international public opinion, thus causing them all kinds of difficulties.

During the past more than 10 years, the Vietnamese and Phnom Penh puppet troops have suffered shameful defeats in their plan to smash our resistance movements through military means.

Dear compatriots, our Funcinpec and our NAIC detest extremely the war of bloodshed, which has brought nothing good but only made many of our Cambodian people suffer, die, and become disabled, and which has separated our Cambodian women from their husbands and orphaned our children.

As all compatriots, esteemed monks, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts know, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, samdech euv, greatly sympathizes with his people. He has tried to find ways to quickly seek peace through political and peaceful means as proved by his many flexible proposals, his several meetings and negotiations with the Vietnamese puppets in France, Indonesia, Thailand, and Japan, and lately by our Funcinpec's full and unconditional acceptance of the framework for the settlement of the Cambodian problem in line with the UN plan.

These are the enormous concessions made by our resistance movement with an aim to quickly end the misery of the Cambodian people who fervently want peace. But Hanoi and the Phnom Penh puppets have stubbornly refused to abandon their expansionist and neocolonialist designs and their Indochinese Federation policy. The most apparent proof is that their so-called troop withdrawal from Cambodia is just a fraud to hoodwink national and international public opinion by just rotating their troops and hiding them inside Cambodia. More apparently, they have sought every means to delay the political settlement as long as possible. For example, although the UN peace plan has been supported as the best, most effective, and fair measure for ending the war in Cambodia, Hanoi and Phnom Penh have obstinately rejected it by raising all kinds of pretexts.

Esteemed and beloved compatriots, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, and brothers and sisters, all of you must have known that our Funcinpec has attended all negotiations to seek peace and willingly made concessions. This was because we wanted our motherland to quickly achieve peace. But on the contrary, Hanoi and the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen-Chea Sim puppet regime have no goodwill to settle the Cambodian problem. The Hanoi authorities who have long desired to annex our Cambodian territory have resorted to every means in an attempt to realize this aim, using both military forces, deceitful and tricky schemes, and particularly the Phnom Penh puppet-lackey clique—the pawn they have installed in Phnom Penh.

We are clearly aware of the real status of being an out-and-out lackey of the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin-Chea Sim clique, which has been greatly overpowered by greed for power, rank, and property, to the point that it has ignored the interests of the Cambodian nation and people through its attempts to hinder all the efforts for peace in Cambodia. A recent example that we can see clearly is that this clique has tried to avoid the Supreme National Council [SNC], which is a part of the peace plan, from becoming full-fledged by demanding that puppet Hun Sen become the vice chairman, an act which totally violates the Jakarta joint communique.

Another example is that recently realizing that the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia want to invite all Cambodian factions to meet again in Jakarta in order to continue the search for a solution to end the war in Cambodia, Hanoi and the Phnom Penh puppets declared the changing of three SNC members. This is another violation of the principle of consensus defined in the Jakarta joint communique.

Dear compatriots, Hanoi and the Phnom Penh puppets have never had any genuine goodwill to put an end to the Cambodian people's misery. All the past meetings were not able to break through the deadlock. No matter what concessions the Cambodian resistance parties have made, these elements have kept seeking all kinds of pretexts, such as the Khmer Rouge issue, to hinder the search for a political settlement.

Indeed, we have never supported the Khmer Rouge's return to massacre our people, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts. We only want all Cambodian people to enjoy peace and harmony. Therefore, our esteemed samdech euv has made every effort to seek effective measures to prevent a recurrence of this genocide. And this concrete measure which has a genuine guarantee is the settlement within the framework of the UN peace plan, which has been fully supported by the international community and all the big countries.

I would like to inform all monks and compatriots that Australia, which is one of the Western countries that resolutely opposes the Khmer Rouge acts and which particularly has had relations and interests with the Phnom Penh regime, has clearly stressed—Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has particularly stressed in Parliament and with the Australian press—that the UN peace plan is the only effective plan for settling the end of the war in Cambodia that can ensure that the genocide will not return to Cambodia.

I would like to call on all monks and compatriots to judge for themselves who really wants peace and happiness for our people and who has prolonged the war. I place all my hope on the correct and fair judgment of all venerable monks, compatriots, and brothers and sisters who have witnessed all these events. Particularly, you should condemn the puppet regime which has not only massacred and oppressed the Cambodian people and destroyed national property, but also hired foreigners to help it in waging war to shed the Cambodian people's blood. Where did the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen regime obtain the money to hire the Vietnamese troops to massacre the Cambodian people? The only way was to sell out its own nation. Recently the Phnom Penh puppet regime has intensified its cruel acts against the Cambodian people, destroying, robbing, and oppressing them. For example, in a number of villages and communes in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province, such as in Phum Dong and Krabao villages, the Phnom Penh puppets robbed people of their rice and property. Moreover, they have plundered temple property and insulted our monks by hitting their heads with guns.

In Russei Commune of Varin District [Siem Reap Province], the soldiers of the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin puppet clique went around robbing people of their property, stealing cattle, and raping villagers' daughters in a most cruel and barbarous manner. In the zone temporarily controlled by the enemies, our people have been oppressed, recruited, and forced to pay all kinds of taxes. All venerable monks and beloved compatriots should take a look at their acts. Buddhism, monasteries, and monks worshipped and respected by our Cambodian people have been insulted, plundered, and destroyed by all these hooligans. We strongly condemn all these barbarous and cruel acts of the puppets.

In my capacity as the commander in chief of the NAIC, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere commendation to all NAIC officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers who are launching operations inside the country, particularly in Siem Reap Province, Varin District, and Oddar Meanchey and Kompong Thom Provinces, for wholeheartedly striving to serve and defend our people in all these regions from all the robbery and barbarous acts of the puppets and for seizing and bringing back the people's rice and property that was robbed by the enemies.

I would also like to appeal for all compatriots to pay attention to enhancing your spirit, in addition to the great mission of fighting to liberate the country, by striving to defend the people and ensuring their security. This is because the people are the genuine masters of the country who will give fair and correct justice to the cause of our struggle, the most essential and significant factor for achieving permanent victory as proved by the fact that monks, brothers, sisters, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts in Kompong Thom Province have given their full support to the members of our NAIC. This is also clear proof of the bitter defeats suffered by the Vietnamese enemies and Heng Samrin clique, who have not paid attention to the misery of our people and monks.

Esteemed monks, dear compatriots, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, brothers, and sisters both in the liberated zone and in the areas temporarily controlled by Vietnam and the Heng Samrin clique, I would like to convey the best regards and feelings of affection and gratitude from the samdech euv to all compatriots who are his children. At present, although he is far apart from all of you, he always thinks of and really and constantly loves all our Cambodian compatriots who are his children. I would like to inform all monks and compatriots that although our samdech euv is not physically near you, he has always made every effort to quickly seek ways to solve the problem of peace. He has always paid great attention to the weal and woe of all compatriots by setting aside his own property and seeking foreign aid to provide for the livelihood of the Cambodian people in our liberated zone.

Dear compatriots, I would like once again to solemnly pledge that despite all kinds of difficulty, particularly in the current period of time, our Funcinpec and NAIC under the clearsighted policy of our respected samdech euv will strive to improve the livelihood of our Cambodian people, particularly those in our liberated zone, by arranging and ensuring the universally-recognized human rights for our compatriots, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts, and arrange democracy for them by implementing a system of self- determination as of now and in the future. If the compatriots give the correct justice through the free elections under the supervision and arrangement of the United Nations to our Funcinpec, I, as the Funcinpec secretary general, would like to solemnly announce today that our front will adhere to democratic principles and abide by the will of our Cambodian people who are the real masters of the Cambodian land and seas. And from now on, our front will adhere to the administrative system of liberal democracy, which has a free economy as all other developing countries in the world. We will pay attention to arranging development work in all fields, education, health, social affairs, and so forth.

In conclusion, I would like to express great elation over the victories scored by Funcinpec and NAIC during the past few months in inflicting serious defeats on the Vietnamese aggressors and their lackeys in Phnom Penh militarily and diplomatically at home and in the international arena.

I hope that in the near future, under the correct and clearsignted policy of our samdech euv, with the lofty spirit of sacrifices by all Funcinpec and NAIC members who are the sons of all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts, and with the full support of the compatriots, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts, we will achieve permanent victory in seizing complete independence, full sovereignty, and complete territorial integrity within the borders that were internationally recognized until 1969.

Before ending this special message, I would like to pray to the five blessings of Lord Buddha, all gods, all the former Cambodian kings who have all along protected the Cambodian territory, and all sacred objects in the world to please bless all Cambodian compatriots with successes, prosperity, and happiness.

Issued in Oddar Meanchey Province on 21 March 1991

[By] Norodom Ranariddh

Commentary on Ranariddh Message

BK2203050391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "Falling Not Far From the Tree"]

[Text] In nature, fruit does not fall far from the tree trunk. In humans, quite a number of individuals behave and speak like their parents. Take Ranariddh for example. Right from the beginning—although not well liked by his father and family members—this excitable prince has made efforts to imitate his father's manners.

In a recent message on the 10th anniversary of the day Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] was born abroad, Ranariddh showed his fangs and boasted in his father's manner that without this exiled front, the country would not have survived to this day. Furthermore, Ranariddh echoed the Pol Pot clique that the State of Cambodia and Vietnam are obstacles to solving the Cambodian problem politically, and so on.

However, the fact is that everyone knows that the birth of Funcinpec 10 years ago, like its activities in the past, serves nothing but the maneuvers of the Pol Pot clique. At a time when columns of Cambodians were led to their massacre and were being tortured by the blood-thirsty regime, Ranariddh and a number of people of this ghost front did not try to find any means to put out the genocidal fire which was raging throughout the country. Two years after the people had been liberated, survived, and enjoyed rights and freedom, Ranariddh and a handful of servants struggled to set up a front in a foreign capital, that of Pol Pot's master.

This is our question: Who liberated the Cambodian people from the criminal yoke of the Pol Pol clique? Was it the Sihanouk- Ranariddh front? Furthermore, since the Pol Pot clique has not been able to return to massacre our people again in the past 12 years, is it because of Ranariddh and Sihanouk, or what?

Even children can answer this, noting that only the State of Cambodia has liberated and defended the rebirth of our nation. As for the so-called Sihanouk-Ranariddh front, like Son Sann's front, it not only did not contribute to liberating and defending the motherland's rebirth but it also assisted the Pol Pot clique in returning to massacre the Cambodian people. Inside the country, these people have cooperated with Pol Pot and infiltrated into villages and communes to plunder and kill people mercilessly. In the past two years in particular, the activities of Sihanouk and the Son Sann group are no less barabarous and savage than their ally, the Pol Pot clique. In the international areana, the Sihanouk and Son Sann groups did their best to shamelessly defend the genocidal clique, particularly at every negotiating forum to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem. Worse still, they try to flatter and coax and also threaten the State of Cambodia side to accept a political solution which would bring along the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Clear evidence is that they have unreservedly supported a peace plan which does not say a word about genocide and does not talk, not even a sentence, about measures to prevent the recurrence of the genocidal regime, which is in violation of the 1948 international convention on the prevention and punishment of genocide. Is this these people's nationalist spirit? Is this these people's way of safeguarding the country and nation?

In sum, Ranariddh's words are no different from those of Sihanouk, namely boasting and self-elevating and blaming others. Really, like father like son.

AFP: Khmer Rouge Moves To Assist KPNLF Town

BK2103134091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 21 Mar 91

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Ta Phraya, Thailand, March 21 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] forces have moved to assist non-communist guerrillas in northwestern Cambodia in a bid to stave off Phnom Penh government troops, Thai military officers said Thursday.

Elements of Khmer Rouge Division 519, which is deployed in Cambodia just south of this Thai border town, have been approaching the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) stronghold of Thmar Puok since Wednesday, said the officers, stationed at the border.

Troops of Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnamese government launched an offensive on Thmar Puok, a KPNLF-controlled town some 25 kilometers (15 miles) east of here, earlier this month.

Guerrillas from the KPNLF, one of two small non-communist factions allied to the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge in a guerrilla coalition against the Phnom Penh forces, had checked the offensive by the end of last week. But the Thai officers said government forces now threatened to encircle the town, which is home to some 8,000 people and located on a strategic supply route.

The officers said the Khmer Rouge was not yet directly involved in the fighting around Thmar Puok, although division 519 had supplied ammunition to the KPNLF.

Ok Serei Sopheak, a spokesman for the non-communist guerrillas, this week dismissed reports that Khmer Rouge and KPNLF forces were fighting side by side around Thmar Puok. Khmer Rouge military cooperation with the KPNLF and Prince Norodom Sihanouk's faction, the other anti-Phnom Penh non-communist guerrilla force, is a sensitive issue.

The United States, which provides both non-communist factions with non-military assistance, is required by law to stop its aid if they cooperate militarily with the Khmer Rouge because of the human rights record of Cambodia's former rulers. The Khmer Rouge was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during its rule of nearly four years until early 1979.

The Thai officers reported only scattered fighting over the past few days but said Thai troops had been reinforced here, mainly to prevent a large influx of refugees from crossing the border. An estimated 1,000 refugees fleeing earlier fighting around Thmar Puok had arrived at the border on the Cambodian side, the officers said.

Command Orders Downing of Enemy Aircraft

BK2203001091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Mar 91

["Guidance on firing on Vietnamese enemy aircraft"]

[Text] 1. In early March 1991, the Vietnamese enemy started to use helicopters to fire on and bomb the liberated zones of our resistance forces in battles. On 17 March 1991, Vietnamese aircraft carrying out bombing missions in battles were hit by the national resistance forces' fire but the Vietnamese enemy managed to land in zones under its temporary control near Louk Balat Village, south of the Battambang railroad station.

2. It is proposed that all battlefields, front and rear, take masterly measures to shoot down Vietnamese enemy aircraft on the spot.

3. The situation in which the Vietnamese enemy are struggling to use aircraft points to the weakness of the Vietnamese enemy who is more and more at an impasse because Vietnamese and puppet infantry troops can no longer be pushed to move forward by Vietnamese and puppet ringleaders. Without foot soldiers, tanks cannot venture out very far. The Vietnamese enemy artillery can only fire from far away and only at mobile troops of the national resistance forces. This is just like firing into the open sky. Furthermore, the Vietnamese enemy's use of aircraft raises the problems of fuel and spare parts in a situation in which Soviet aid has been basically cut off.

[Signed] Operation Department of the Supreme Command of the Cambodian national resistance forces

Support Pledged To Liberate Kampot Province

BK2203033291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] From 2 to 5 March, our Cambodian national resistance forces on the Kampot battlefield successfully attacked and liberated the Kampot district seat in Kampot Province and also liberated seven communes. This victory was due to the active cooperation of our people, Cambodian soldiers and militiamen, and also village and commune officials. Our people contributed to providing supplies and ammunition transport while Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local state authority personnel provided information, pointed the way, and directly took part in the battle.

Our people, compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local administrative staff are currently closely cooperating with our Cambodian national resistance forces and continue to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators through every form, actively and vigorously. Our people pledge to fight until Kampot Province and our entire country and nation are liberated and enjoy independence and peace again.

They also appeal to our people, compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local state authority officials in Kampot Province, who are living under the barbarous grip of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and puppet ringleaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, Vietnam's lackeys, to rise up and cooperate like compatriots in fighting the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators in Kampot Province.

Only in this way can Vietnam's war of aggression and genocide in Cambodia over the past 12 years be ended quickly, can all of us live and be reunited with our parents and families, and can our Cambodian nation and people be spared all kinds of massacre and genocide at the hands of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppet ringleaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, Vietnam's lackeys.

Indonesia

Minister on Investment Climate, PRC Trip

BK2103113591 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0925 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—The government will continuously improve investment climate as Indonesia has to tightly compete with other countries to attract more domestic and foreign investors to do business in the country, Junior Industry Minister Tungki Ariwibowo stated here Thursday.

Speaking to newsmen after reporting to President Suharto at Bina Graha Presidential Office here on his recent trip to the People's Republic of China, Ariwibowo further said that since Indonesia was facing stiff competition with other countries, like China, in luring foreign investors, the government was determined to improve the country's investment climate.

Ariwibowo and entourage visited China from March 7 to 13 to closely study Chinese experiences in developing industrial zones in its eastern coastal areas. Beijing has provided various facilities for foreign investors, particularly in taxation.

The Chinese Government, he said, has been promoting industrial zones based on market system, particularly in Zhengzhou, which is closely situated to Hong Kong. After hearing Ariwibowo's report, the head of state asked him to study the Chinese Government's policies which were applicable to Indonesia.

According to Ariwibowo, the investment climate in the country needed to be improved in order to attract more foreign investors to come to Indonesia. He said that some investors had lodged some complaints about the lack of various facilities, like electricity, telephone lines and other infrastructures.

During his Chinese trip, Minister Ariwibowo was accompanied by several ranking government officials and businessmen.

The businessmen, he said, had been asked to lure their Chinese counterparts to invest in Indonesia as they had an advantage in machinery industry.

Shipping Company Plans To Expand Routes to PRC

BK2103114191 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0923 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Jakarta, Mar 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—The state-owned shipping company Jakarta Lloyd is now exploring the possibility of expanding its shipping routes to the People's Republic of China (PRC) following the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, spokesman of the company Erdinal Rasjidin said here Thursday.

One of efforts to realize the idea, the president of the company recently visited Beijing to explore the possibility of opening the new shipping route, he said.

According to Rasjidin, the PRC has a potential market for the shipping route since the flow of goods from and to that country is encouraging. He disclosed that the plan of opening the new route was aimed at expanding market, since there were stiff competition in shipping services to Europe. Shipping services to Europe are very busy, particularly by liners using Singapore as their transit port from and to Indonesia, he said.

In anticipation of such a development, the company has also established a cooperation with several foreign shipping companies, Rasjidin said, adding that the company had been acting as shipping agent for foreign shipping companies in several Indonesian ports. In addition, he said, Jakarta Lloyd has also a load quota in a number of ships operated by foreign shipping companies.

Laos

Meeting on Troop Withdrawal Held in Thailand

BK2203055191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] Yesterday the Joint Military Committees of Laos and Thailand held an extraordinary meeting at the meeting hall of Na Haeo District, Loei Province [in Thailand], to inform each other on the progress of the withdrawal of troops by each side from the Lao-Thai border points located between Boten District in Sayaboury Province [of Laos] and Chat Trakan District in Phitsanulok Province [of Thailand] and between the three villages in Paklai District in Sayaboury Priovince and Ban Khok District in Uttaradit Province in accordance with an agreement reached by General Sisavat Keobounphan, chief of the General Staff of the Lao People's Army [LPA], and General Suchinda Khraprayun, vice chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council and Army Commander in Chief of Thailand, during the latter's visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 11 and 12 March.

According to the agreement, the two sides will complete the withdrawal of troops from the disputed areas between 13 and 19 March 1991.

Attending the meeting were Colonel Phommachak Southisan, head of the Lao side, and Major General Wirot Wachirawat, head of the Thai side. In addition to members of the Lao and Thai Joint Military Committees, Colonel Sema Sisathaphon and Colonel Phopnkeo Thinnasan, respectively represented the 3d and 2d Armies of Thailand in the two areas. The meeting was conducted in an amicable and good atmosphere. The sides informed each other on the progress of the withdrawal of troops from the designated areas. In particular, the Lao side informed its Thai counterpart of a delay in completing the troop withdrawal because of rugged terrain and the inaccessibility of roads to the disputed areas. Nonetheless, the withdrawal has been strictly carried out since 13 March in accordance with the order of the chief of the General Staff of the LPA and is expected to be completed soon. On its part, the Thai side said that all the Thai troops have already been withdrawn from the areas agreed upon. After that, the two sides consulted with each other on the inspection of the troop withdrawal for clear-cut verification. This issue will be forwarded to the higher levels of each side for consideration. Another meeting on this issue will be held again so that details of the inspection procedures can be worked out before actual inspection is carried out. It is expected that the issue will be discussed at the monthly meeting for this coming April.

Kaysone Phomvihan Addresses Khammouane Conference

BK2203063591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] In his addresss to the fourth conference of the party committee of Khammouane Province on 15 March, Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan earnestly advised that timber processing enterprises in the province strictly implement timber exploitation plans and other reforestation regulations otherwise their businesses might be suspended.

The general secretary stressed: In the past 15 years, Khammouane Province has extracted more than 142,000 cubic meters of timber but carried out reforestation on only 24 hectares of land. This shows that forest exploitation has been extensively carried out while reforestation has been neglected. Therefore, it is imperative that close attention be paid to safeguarding, increasing, and making full use of forestry resources with great efficiencies. The party and government have implemented a policy to strictly restrict forest exploitation and to see to it that this activity be strictly carried out in accordance with regulations and simulataneously with reforestation.

He said: We cannot allow the situation in which forests are wantonly and extensively exploited and forestry resources are used as primary sources of income for budgets to go on any longer because serious irreversable adverse effects will be caused to the environment as what has happened in many other countries.

PASASON on Significance of Party's Leadership

BK2003114991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Mar 91

[PASASON feature: "Let Us Build the Party To Be Strong in the Political, Ideological, and Organizational Aspects"]

[Text] Respected listeners, it is noted in the basic, principled stand of the party that the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] is the sole leading party, that the party's leadership determines the success of our people in carrying out the revolutionary cause, and that only under the leadership of the LPRP—a genuine Marxist-Leninist party—can the Lao revolution achieve victory. The lessons and actual practices over the past 15 years have proven that our achievements and victories are great and firm. This is the objective proof. Without the clear-sighted, resolute, and firm leadership of the LPRP, the Lao revolution would not have been able to liberate the country and safeguard national independence. The party's leadership role, therefore, is considered to be very significant, and it has become a basic principle.

In view of the new changes in Eastern Europe, and the unceasing slanderous propaganda carried out by our opponents (?in various countries) to (?paralyze) the party's influence, disrupt party unity, and sabotage its organizational system, we need to pay more attention to consolidating and building the party to be firm and strong in all political, ideological, and organizational aspects. As before, our party has maintained that the building of the party politically, ideologically, and organizationally is very significant. The foremost requirement is the building of the party politically, which means adopting the party line and policies for each revolutionary stage and at each (?level) of party (?committees). This includes concretizing and publicizing the party line as well as appropriately defining the political tasks for each branch, locality, and unit. In this regard, each branch, locality, and unit must be given political direction and appropriate tasks. It is also necessary to organize training and carry out the ideological struggle [words indistinct].

Along with this, building the party ideologically and organizationally are necessary and significant issues. Failure to begin the political aspect of this job where the (?unified) tasks are defined, and the insistence that this task is the responsibility of the ideological and organizational branches, will inevitably cause difficulties. It is, therefore, necessary for us to simultaneously build the party in all three fields [words indistinct]. At present, we must bring about a new and correct understanding of the party's leadership role and the fact that there will always be changes.

There are many new problems developing in difficult, complicated, or discouraging ways in the struggle against opponents. It is, therefore, required that ideological and organizational work be carried out positively, consistently, quickly, and timely, and that the (?making of arrangements) for political work be more effective. Ideological and organizational leadership should be raised to meet the revolutionary requirements to guarantee the defense of the country and the building of the economy. At the same time, cadres and party members must be educated and trained to enable them to understand the party's line and policies, to be confident in the party's leadership, and to firmly raise the class and exemplary characteristics of the party as the worthy and genuine leading core of the masses. In addition, it is necessary to criticize and oppose doubts about the party's leadership role and its rejection; resolutely struggle against all practices aimed at creating disunity; and to treasure the unique solidarity of party ranks.

PASASON Editorial on Leadership Role

BK2203062991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 22 Mar 91

[PASASON 22 March editorial: "Honor, Integrity, and Responsibility of Our Party"]

[Text] On 22 March 1991, our party will be 36 years old. During the historic period of the past 36 years, our party has shouldered great responsibilities in leading the masses to successfully carry out the national-democratic revolution in the past, to engage in the tasks of national defense and national construction after the liberation of the country, and, at present, to effect all-round changes so as to take the country into the stage of new development.

The year 1991 is a year of great significance for our party because it is the concluding year of the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the fourth party congress. In addition, in the near future, the fifth party congress will be officially convened. During this congress, our party will review its leadership role in the past and will explore the truth of the new situation with a view to defining the party's line and policies in conformity with reality, aimed at profoundly and efficiently promoting the restructuring.

To celebrate the 36th party founding anniversary with deeds of practical significance, the entire party—from the grass roots up to the leading offices at all levels—and cadres and party members in all positions are encouraged to review our activities, to clearly appreciate the outcome of our leadership, and to understand our strong and weak points in executing the tasks under our responsibility. On the basis of this assessment, we will make decisions to effect new changes, first of all in our thinking and working patterns, and in organizing the implementation of the party's line and policies and the state's plans. We must persist in raising our standards in all fields, especially our sense of appreciation of virtue, in order to quicken the pace of movement of our party to catch up with the new political duties in the new period and, together with the people, to face all trials in the new situation, aimed at making new achievements and fulfilling all targets in bringing a state of normalcy to our social and economic life, thus allowing our country to march onward uninterruptedly.

All cadres and party members must increase their unity and unification with the center, resolutely change erroneous concepts and attitudes, and train and cultivate ourselves to remain firm politically and ideologically and strong organizationally and to regard the people as the primary factor in implementing the party's line and policies and the state's plans.

To achieve the above-mentioned targets, we must consistently raise the standards of our knowledge, capabilities, and virtue and, at the same time, instill in the people a sense of political awareness and increase their knowledge in science and technology. The management of our work must be executed with practical patterns so as to generate top quality and practical outcomes for the improvement of the people's material and moral life. Only by achieving the aforementioned targets will we deserve to be in the leaders' position. This is the honor, integrity, and responsibility of our party in the new period.

Agreement on U.S. Medical Assistance Signed

BK2103123091 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 21 (KPL)—An agreement on building and equipping three operation theatres for Mahosot Hospital, Hospital N 103, and the Orthopedic Center in Vientiane Prefecture was signed here on March 19 by a representative of the World Vision International. The construction of these operation rooms will be finished in three months.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the project manager Mr. Roysenn, the representative of the World Vision International to Laos, Mr. Saleumsai Chittayasothon, and senior officials of Mahosot Hospital, the Hospital N 103, and of the Orthopedic Center.

According to an American-Lao agreement on 1990-1991 assistance, the American side agreed to support Laos through this private American organization in equipping artificial limbs and rehabilitating the handicapped in Laos. Since there has been delay in the implementation, the aid amounting to U.S. Dollars 860,000 has been transferred for the period of 1991-1992. The fund will be used for personnel training, operation theatres, construction and equipment supply for four hospitals, providing occupations to the handicapped, and prevention of disability. In this connection, the World Vision International has been nominated as the executor of these projects.

Another report further discloses that recently a representative of the World Vision International has signed a similar agreement to grant aid to the northern Xieng Khouang Province. The assistance project is expected to be put into motion soon.

Philippines

Imelda Marcos 'Sure To Run for President'

HK2203025991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] Mrs. Imelda Marcos is sure to run for president if she is given a passport and is able to return to the Philippines. This was disclosed by Mrs. Marcos' lawyer-spokesman, Roger Payuan, in an interview with Leo Macalma.

According to Payuan, the granting of a passport to Imelda is the first step toward her presidential candidacy in 1992.

[Begin Payuan recording] If Mrs. Marcos is given a passport, this may be one of the first steps to her plans to run in the next election. This would be one of the important steps for her to realize these objectives. But this is according to the views of Mr. James Pauline and he is not speaking for Mrs. Marcos, but rather, this is his belief as Mrs. Marcos' lawyer. [end recording]

In a related development, Mrs. Marcos told the New Society Movement [KBL] officers not to dismantle the party, but instead, to strengthen its cooperation with the opposition. This is Mrs. Marcos' latest directive to the KBL in relation to her plans to run in the 1992 presidential elections.

Congressman Rodolfo Albano, of the KBL, said that they have not yet confirmed whether Imelda will run or not under the KBL because she has not expressed anything to the party. Here is a statement from KBL Congressman Rudy Albano during an interview with Rey Langit a while ago.

[Begin Albano recording] About the candidacy of our first lady, up to now, there has been no notice given to the KBL that she is indeed coming, and we have not met concerning this. Meaning, there is no definite *word that she is now coming, and that she is intending to run. The latest* that we heard from her, is that *the party must not be dissolved, and that we should work toward the unification of the entire opposition.* [end recording]

Government Preparing Cases Against Imelda Marcos

HK2103150691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] President Aquino announced today that the government will first formally file the pertinent criminal and civil cases against former First Lady Imelda Marcos before allowing the latter to return to the Philippines. This was in reaction to the report that Mrs. Marcos will file a passport application at the Philippine Consulate in New York.

In the president's statement, given by Justice Secretary Drilon, she said that the PCGG [Presidential Commission on Good Government], in collaboration with the Justice Department and the Office of the Solicitor General, will prepare the cases based on the documented evidence.

[Begin Drilon recording, in English] The PCGG, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General, is now preparing the charges by collating the voluminous documentary evidence against Imelda Marcos. [end recording]

Negotiating Panel To Refuse U.S. Base Offer

HK2103124691 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The Philippines will refuse the reported U.S. 12-year retention offer for its military bases in the country, which would set compensation at 512 million pesos for each year. This was stressed by Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, vice chairman of the Philippine negotiating panel. According to him, the Philippines will remain firm on its position for a five- to seven-year phase-out period of the United States military bases in the country. There is nothing new about the Americans' offer since the Philippine panel rejected it last February during the negotiations, he added.

Senate Committees To Prevent Sale of Bases Land

HK2203061991 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 91 pp 1, 6

[By Johanna Son and Manny Mogato]

[Text] Five Senate committees yesterday agreed to prevent a new government firm from selling lands occupied by United States military bases.

The Senate foreign relations, finance, economic affairs, government corporations and defense committees decided to amend a Malacanang-sponsored bill (SB [Senate Bill] 1648) which gives the new firm, the Base Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the power to implement the government bases conversion plan. The bill, in particular, gives the BCDA the power to acquire, hold, administer, lease, mortgage and sell property and land transferred to its responsibility by the President. But the committees, saying the base lands should not be treated as commercial real estate, are introducing amendments which give Congress more leeway in guiding and controlling the new government firm.

In Baguio City, the government prepared to take over Camp John Hay Air Station by beefing up perimeter security and resurveying the camp's areas. Authorities also assured an initial P50 million for the first of a two-phased base conversion plan. The government, they said, would use P37.7 million of the budget to replace "removables" consisting of vehicles, equipment, and other ancillary facilities. But they added that at least P878.5 million would be needed to convert the camp into a major tourism estate.

The Clark Air Base Command in Angeles City posted 150 soldies at the camp last week to provide the needed security. Forest rangers and surveyors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR] have started resurveying the camp area.

Sen. Vicente Paterno said the bases, particularly Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, "should be used as national patrimony" and not profit-making ventures such as shopping centers. He added that the base lands should be used "not to make money but to create jobs."

"Congress wants the bases converted to maximize economic opportunities for our people," Paterno stressed. Sen. Rene Saguisag proposed that, in the course of its work, the BCDA shuld be required to give regular reports to an oversight committee. Sen. Orlando Mercado proposed that the bill specify existing watershed and forest areas for BCDA protection. Sen. Leticia Shahani, whose foreign relations committee is the lead panel studying the bill, suggested the occasional review of the conversion plan by a legislative-executive body. For his part, Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos offered to drop the power to sell base lands from the bill.

Delfin Lazaro, head of the Special Operations Team on the bases, said he understood the senators' concerns but stressed that limited commercial use of base lands for the first five years was "alright." "If the Authority is too constrained, it may not be able to meet its objectives," Lazaro added. He urged the senators to endorse the bill by May, at the latest, since the sale of U.S. base lands in Metro Manila required legislation.

The bill named two Metro Manila base lands for immediate sale: the Villamor golf course and a 121-ha property in Fort Bonifacio. The latter is reportedly being eyed as a future cementary. Shahani said the committee version of the bill would be out when Congress resumes, after the Lenten break.

Horacio Ramos, executive director of the Cordillera Environment and Natural Resources Office, said the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Tourism [DOT] would build a 10-km perimeter fence around John Hay late next month. The fence, he said, would prevent squatters from invading the camp and bar existing camp communities from expanding their area. The government will also train a DOT management team to run Camp John Hay after the Americans completely withdraw from the camp this July, Ramos added. The tourism department will run Camp John Hay until January 1992, when private groups are expected to take over the camp.

Americans have started leaving the camp since late February, in preparation for the formal turnover of the facilities in July 1991. Camp John Hay is one of five satellite stations expected to revert to Philippine control after the termination of the 1947 RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement.

The Legislative-Executive Bases Council, headed by UP [University of the Philippines] President Jose Abuevs, had earlier formulated a conversion plan to ensure a smooth Philippine takeover of the bases. The plan targets the development of Camp John Hay into a protected forest and tourism estate. The plan also outlined the privatization of the camp's rest and recreation facilities which the government could not maintain because it lacked money. Under the plan, the DENR would take over the forests, comprising about 70% of the camp, while the DOT will manage the rest and recreation facilities. The military and local police will provide security and enforcement of laws within the area. Forest rangers will also help in patrolling the camp perimeters.

The government is expected to absorb terminated camp employees and pay them according to government standards.

Further on Fate of U.S. Military Facilities

HK2203055791 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[By Ros Manlangit, Arthur Bariuad, and Mariquit Almario]

[Text] At least two tracts of land in Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) military bases—the Villamor (Nichols) Air base golf course and a 121-hectare area in Fort Bonifacio—will be sold "immediately" to raise money for the Philippine Bases Conversion Authority, according to a report prepared by the Senate technical working group for the conversion agency.

The same report says that baselands that are part of American military installations will be spared from "immediate privatization."

In another development, President Aquino yesterday continued to push for a nationwide consultation on the fate of the U.S. military facilities here, saying there is "no constitutional barrier" for implementing the consultation. Thousands of hectares of baselands in U.S. military facilities in 12 sites in Luzon have been proposed to be left as such for unclear reasons, while the AFP baselands will be sold.

According to the refinements made on Senate Bill No. 1648 read yesterday by Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahgani, the bill's author, it will still be decided by the President of the Philippines whether the baselands in U.S. facilities will be delineated as non-military preparatory to selling them. But in the case of the two metro Manila AFP properties, Malacanang will be vested with immediate authority to dispose them, according to the "fine-tuned" Senate bill.

Shahani yesterday said the Senate committees were rushing work on the proposed bill which Malacanang has adopted as an administration bill. Among the major revisions made on the original Shahani bill are 1) percentage sharing of the proceeds of the sale of military camps, which will mean 90 percent of the proceeds to go to military projects and the remaining 10 percent to be remitted to the national treasury and 2) the creation of a 15-man board in the authority to include four representatives of the private sector. Also proposed was the designation of the Public Estates Authority (PEA) under the Office of the President to handle the sale of the two Metro Manila properties.

According to Shahani, the Senate technical group has met several times with its Malacanang counterpart, the Presidental Committee on the Bases Secretariat, to frame the amendments. The bill will go through final consideration by the five Senate committees before it is consolidated into a joint committee report to be presented to the floor for deliberations.

The other committees are the committee on government, corporations and public enterprise under Senator Sotero Laurel, national defense and security under Senator Ernesto Maceda, economic affairs under Senator Vicente Patemo and finance under Senator Neptali Gonzales.

In a related development, Senator Victor Ziga called on the Philippine bases panel to bring up the question of toxic waste disposal in the U.S. facilities in the ongoing talks with its American counterpart.

"It is very clear from the activities being conducted in these U.S. military installations that toxic and hazardous substances are being used in massive amounts and the disposal of their wastes creates environmental problems in these areas," said Ziga. "Under the 'polluter-pay' principle, the U.S. should shoulder all expenses for the clean-up and consequent environmental rehabilitation of the affected areas," added Ziga, who recently filed a resolution calling for a Senate inquiry into the environmental hazards in the base areas.

Mrs. Aquino said that it is not unconstitutional for her Cabinet members and other government officials to tour the country and gather the sentiment of the people on the bases issue. Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes earlier said that Malacanang is planning to conduct a nationwide survey to find out whether the people would want another Philippine-U.S. military bases treaty.

Some senators, headed by Senate President Jovito Salonga, were skeptical over the Malacanang proposal since it appears similar to a measure filed in the House of Representatives which seeks a referendum on the bases issue even before the Senate ratifies the treaty. Salonga earlier said that he is in favor of "an informal consultation on the bases issue" as long as it would not entail additional funds and manpower from the government. He said that any referendum before the Senate acts on the draft treaty would be a violation of the Constitution.

Constitutional Commissioner Jose Nolledo also said any bases consultation before ratification of the treaty by the Senate could be deemed unconstitutional even if the result is non-binding.

The Constitution states that the Senate has the sole power to ratify or reject a new bases treaty and only after the higher chamber has performed its function can Congress, if it desires, submit the treaty to the people in a referendum.

Aquino: Consultations Not Constitutional Violation

HK2103152891 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 21 Mar 91

[By Tanny Rodriguez]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino said that any consultations with the people regarding the U.S. military bases will not violate the Constitution.

In her press statement, read by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, the president said that it will be far better for the president, her Cabinet members, and government officials to consult with the people on all issues facing the nation.

[Begin Drilon recording, in English] There is no constitutional barrier to our holding consultations with the people on any matter. In fact, it is desirable for the president and her Cabinet and other officials to go out and consult with the people on all issues. [end recording]

Earlier, former Constitutional Commissioner Jose Nolledo warned that President Aquino may face impeachment if she pursues her consultation plan regarding the bases issues.

Column Views Aquino's Handling of Bases Issue

HK2203055191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Mar 91 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Playing 'The People' against the Senate"]

[Text] Not having been consulted by government on anything of importance before, I feel honored that Mrs. Aquino is finally thinking of consulting me, my wife, my 87-year-old mother, my driver, household help, cook and ironing woman on the bases. Until now, the members of my household have gone through life without giving the bases a thought; if they are asked now, they would probably ask me my opinion, and I should probably say, why don't we leave it to the Senate?

I have written a few things on the subject, but what I have to say is infinitely less important than what the government has to say about it. So I don't want Mrs. Aquino to ask me what I think about it: I want her to tell me first of all what she thinks about it. Since she has authorized a new treaty to be negotiated, will she now tell me—*us*—why we should support a new agreement?

Perhaps she can tell us too why she is asking us *after*, rather than *before*, the treaty has been negotiated withe the U.S.

I am not at all indifferent to the question, but I don't lose sleep meditating on it. I would welcome removal of the bases if and when they have ceased to be needed—that should help refurbish our self-image. But I can with equal poise live with their continued existence, if in our view the national interest requires it. For just as their removal does not guarantee an effective government, their retention need not guarantee a succession of incompetent governments. Our worst political and economic problems do not derive from the bases: we must look for their solutions elsewhere, not in the bases.

I have long advocated a bipartisan approach to this issue, as the best means of ensuring a national consensus on it. But absent that, I am willing to allow the government to decide what best serves the national interest. And I am willing to be persuaded that the position of the Executive, which favors a new treaty, is eminently correct.

But I have one modest requirement. I demand some intellectual honesty and candor from the Executive. I want Mrs. Aquino to be honest about her position and to defend it with some conviction and courage. Since she has agreed to a new treaty, I want her to convince the senators who have vowed to block its ratification that, despite their objections and misgivings, it is in the national interest, and that she is staking her leadership on it.

I want her to explain to the anti-bases bloc in the Senate why she now wants a new treaty despite her having signed in December of 1984 a solemn covenant with the convenors' group that promised to remove the bases. I want her to do all that, instead of engineering this ludicrous "consultations" which would raise the worth of my ironing woman's opinion on a very serious and complex foreign policy and national security question to the same level as that of the secretaries of foreign affairs and national defense, not to mention the chairpersons of the Senate committees on foreign relations and on defense.

In one word, since she wants a treaty, she must accept full responsibility, accept all its risks, including its possible rejection, if she fails to win the 16 votes needed in the 23-member Senate.

All I want is some semblance of responsibility for this specific act of government. I want the President to tell me—and the Senate: "This is good for the country, as I shall presently demonstrate." She should sign a new treaty only because it serves the national interest—never because some so-called "consultations" show "the people want it." And the Senate should reject it, if it must, only because it does not serve the national interest—never because the same consultations show "the people do not want it." It is a serious matter, not a popularity contest.

Despite rising nationalist opposition to a new agreement, I do not see nationalism being hopelessly compromised or set back if Mrs. Aquino signs a new treaty, provided the terms and conditions are not as onerous and one-sided as the 1947 agreement. But I cannot, we should not, allow her to play the people against the senators in the hope of reversing their anti-bases sentiment. This is a completely rotten, cowardly, and underhanded tactic, and we must denounce it.

Through the Constitution, the people have conferred upon the Senate the usual power and competence to concur in treaties. There is good reason for this: the subject of treaties often requires an expertise more easily found among senators than among the undifferentiated masses. With respect to a new bases treaty, the constitutional mandate is precise and specific: it should be concurred in by the Senate; only *when Congress* so requires, should it be submitted directly to the electorate.

Mrs. Aquino wants to consult the people to make sure that the 14 senators who have vowed to block the treaty find themselves without support among those who are to be consulted. This is mischievous. As Rene Saguisag points out, the Senate must vote on the treaty according to the best lights of its members, not according to how the man in the street likes or dislikes it. The duty of a senator, after all, is to think for the citizens whom he represents and who may not have a full grasp of the issues. Were we to ask the Senate to vote on issues only after looking at survey results, we might as well abolish the body and replace it with a survey outfit. That should considerably cut down the annual budgetary deficit.

The issue here is no longer the merit or lack of merit of a new bases agreement. Rather it is whether or not Mrs. Aquino understands the basic duties of her office and has the courage to assume full responsibility in trying to get a treaty past the Senate. Her unwillingness to assume that responsibility and her unnatural zeal in wanting to let the electorate assume it instead tell us that she has not grasped the fundamentals of the presidency and of representative government, after five years as president. This is an evil that must be exorcised now from the highest office.

Editorial Views U.S. Treatment of Debt

HK2203054191 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Mar 91 p 4

[Editorial: "For U.S., Some Allies Are More Equal Than Others"]

[Text] How lucky can a country get? Just a few days after Poland won very generous concessions from the Paris Club, which agreed to write off half of Poland's $33-billion debt from member governments, visiting Polish President Lech Walesa received more good news from U.S. President George Bush.

The U.S. government, Bush said, has decided to erase $2.6 billion of Poland's $3.8-billion debt to Washington, a significant 70-percent reduction. "God bless you, Mr. president," Walesa, former leader of the "Solidarity" trade union, is reported to have replied. "God bless America."

But Filipinos, standing on the sidelines and watching the U.S. reward a former Communist country for what would seem to be but a reprise of the 1986 EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] "People Power" Revolt, can only mutter about once more being on the short end of dealings with our inconstant "friend and ally."

It would appear that Poland is being rewarded for playing a key role in helping Central and Eastern European nations overthrow their Communist regimes, and for vigorously pursuing efforts to adopt a market economy. "We want your economic transformation to succeed and your new democracy to flourish and we call on other nations to follow our example," Bush told Walesa.

Which is why, despite its past opposition to official debt relief for other governments, including the Philippines, the U.S. is now urging other creditor-nations to make an exception for Poland "because of its political and economic upheavals."

What we want to know is why, in 1986, in the full bloom of international approval for the peaceful manner in which we threw off the yoke of a dictator, the U.S. did not see fit to "make an exception" of the Philippines. After all, political and economic upheavals we have had aplenty, much of it traceable to the hardships imposed by our debt burden which eats up fully 40 percent of our national budget. Instead of debt forgiveness, all we have gotten, as we said previously, are more loans, grudgingly granted under onerous terms set by the IMF.

Some of the blame, we concede, lies on our own financial managers and debt negotiators who have adopted a slavish posture in their dealings with creditors, unwilling even to mention the possibility of debt forgiveness or a moratorium on payments. But a lot of it must also be attributed to duplicitous American foreign policy, which deals fairly, if not fawningly, with nations with whom they share strategic interests; and parsimoniously, as well as arrogantly, with nations they feel they can deceive, if not push around. Undoubtedly, we fall under the second category.

The ongoing bases negotiations are but the most graphic illustration of how American officialdom has no qualms about shafting a government it professes to support and stand by, with the eager acquiescence of Filipino officials.

As the talks stand, the Philippines wants $825 million annually under a terminal seven-year lease, while the U.S., citing budgetary constrants, is offering only $320 million a year, over 10-12 years.

Even more galling is the refusal of the U.S. side to guarantee payment of any amount to be agreed upon, insisting pledges of payment be made on a "best effort" basis, using Congressional control of the purse as excuse.

But it isn't as if America will be getting nothing in return for this deal: Subic and Clark are, after all, the biggest U.S. military installations outside American soil, and play a key role in maintaining the security of the entire region and in protecting American interests.

Again we ask: Why is Poland getting a $2.6-billion debt writeoff, while the Philippines will get only promises on paper for some valuable real estate, as well as for the maintenance of what has been piously called a "security partnership?" Indeed, in the world of American diplomacy, some allies are more equal than others.

Japan Advises Reassessment of Economic Policies

HK2203075191 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 22 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[By Estela B. de la Paz]

[Text] The Philippine Government is advised to reassess its economic policies and implementation of the availed loans to insure continued loan availability from Japan in the future.

At a press conference yesterday, Takeshi Yagi, First Secretary and Economic Division chief of the Embassy of Japan, said there are several "points of concern" the Philippine Government should look into. First, is the Philippines' absorptive capacity for loans availed under Japan's official development assistance (ODA).

While the Philippine Government reported that its loan availment has increased to 85% in 1990 from the previous year's 75% due to several streamlining procedures made in the disbursement of the loans, the donors are not convinced of actual implementation.

"We need some more time to ascertain the actual effects of these streamlining measures. The Philippine Government stressed that the availment rate has increased rapidly but there is room for argument ... We cannot agree on this availment rate. We cannot discuss absorptive capacity on loan availment figures alone," he said. In addition, Mr Yagi noted that the Philippine Government has not yet exhausted about $2 billion in committed funds.

Secondly, the general economic policies of the Government such as foreign investment policies, the 9% import levy, and the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) have to be reviewed.

In the last Philippine Assistance Program (PAP) pledging session held in Hong Kong recently, the donor countries specifically raised these issues. The donor countries said there has been negative feedback on the CARP and the imposition of the 9% import levy. "We are not well informed on the progress of the CARP and we have reports of criticism about it ... As for the 9% levy, we think it should be replaced with another revenue measure," he said. Likewise, more liberal foreign investment policies should be passed such as House Bill No. 32496 authored by Negros Oriental Rep. Margarito Teves, Mr. Yagi said.

Because of these "concerns," more dialogues between the Philippine Government and donor countries will be made. In the process, "we might make comments which may not be comfortable to the ears of the Philippine Government and Congress but this is necessary as we are answerable to our taxpayers," he said.

Military Chief Admits Lack of Defense Capability

HK2203030891 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, admitted that the military does not have the capability to defend the country from external threats. During his speech at the Rotary Club of Manila yesterday, he said that because of the economic situation the government is not able to finance new equipment for the military to fight any external threat and to defend the Philippines' sovereignty. But he believes that good relations with other countries is a favorble weapon for avoiding such threats.

National Police Take Charge of Manila Security

HK2203074191 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 22 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] The defense and security of Metro Manila is now in the hands of the Philippine National Police [PNP].

The main armed forces unit operating in Metro Manila, the National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC], on the other hand, will withdrraw its patrols and military actions in the capital and deploy its forces in the periphery of the region. The NCRDC, headed by Brig. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, shall, however, maintain enough soldiers in Metro Manila to cope with any contingency or major disturbance.

The shift in operation was agreed upon by AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief Gen. Rodolfo Biazon and PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. Biazon said the transfer of the country's internal defense to the PNP from the AFP is the first formal step toward AFP's new role as the country's defender against external aggression. Nazareno said the PNP will recruit and train more policemen, and acquire better equipment and facilities for law enforcement and crime prevention.

The agreement had noted that the national capital region, comprising four cities and 13 municipalities, has been "relatively less affected by insurgency." The turnover will come in two phases, the agreement said: From now until June 30 this year, AFP patrols and military actions will be gradually withdrawan, and will be taken over by the PNP Capital Region Command (Capcom) under Brig. Gen. Marino Filart.

Starting July 1 until Sept. 30, 1991, NCRDC forces will gradually withdraw from all vital facilities and industries, such as power, water, transport and communications within the NCR.

Upon request, the AFP shall help the PNP in crowd control, civil disturbance operations and other similar situations.

Manila Declared 'Armalite-Free' Zone

HK2203074391 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 22 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] The national police chief yesterday declared Manila an "Armalite-free" zone and ordered the recall of automatic rifles and other high-powered firearms issued to policemen.

Cesar Nazareno, PNP [Philippine National Police] director general said he gave the order to reduce civilian casualties during encounters between police and criminals in the city. He said he had ordered an immediate 50 percent reduction in the number of M-16 rifles, known here as armalite, in the arsenal of the capital's police.

Nazareno said the phaseout of M-16s and other such weapons was to be completed by June. Authorities have announced other sweeping campaigns to reduce the number of weapons but they have proven nothing more than public relations gestures. "As of now, we are taking the move slowly," Nazareno said. "I would like to make Manila armalite-free for law enforcement agents and even members of the armed forces."

Under his directive, he said, soldiers in the capital should leave their automatic rifles in camp and carry only side arms. Civilians are banned by law from holding M-16s and other similar weapons but the rule is widely ignored.

"The reason why we are doing this is that we have seen the lethal effects of these weapons," he added. "Many bystanders are hurt because the armalite is a very lethal weapon in the urban centers. These weapons should not really be the firearms to be used by members of the national police."

He brushed aside concerns that the move would put police at a disadvantage against communist rebel death squads operating in the capital. He said police can still use pistols and shotguns against insurgents. Nazareno said special police units still can use automatic rifles in "critical" operations.

Military Chief Orders More Troops to Marag

HK2203074591 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 21 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] Luna, Kalinga Apayao—Armed forces vice chief of staff Maj. Gen. Guillermo Flores yesterday ordered massive buildup of military and paramilitary forces here to "completely control" Marag Valley, which he alleged continues to be under the control of communist insurgents.

Flores, during a visit here yesterday, issued seven directives to all area and field commanders, adding that these should be immediately implemented "due to the seriousness of the insurgency situation here."

"Marag Valley is still under the control of the NPAs," [New People's Army] Flores told military commanders here. "We have to get it back, clear it again, hold and consolidate the area and sit on the area. If it is necessary to bring in battalion-size or brigade-size unit...we are going to do this."

The seven directives are: completely control Marag Valley; deploy 70 civilian volunteers to support the eight military units already stationed there; help government and non-government agencies deliver food and medicine to Marag; bring back and deploy the AFP's [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Task Force Kanduli in the area to conduct civic, medical and dental services while the military operations are going on; help the evacuees return to their home in Marag if the situation improves; deploy the Army Literacy Patrol System (Alps) to conduct temporary education to the residents; and employ army engineers for the improvement of roads.

Mayor Bienvenido Verzola, the town mayor here, said the worsening of the insurgency was solely due to the government's failure to deliver basic services to the people, not only in Marag, but in many Kalinga Apayao barangay as well.

Meanwhile, a human rights group that the military barred from entering Marag in January denied Gen. Homer Capulong's accusation that EMJP [Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace] is infiltrated by the outlawed National Democratic Front. EMJP said Capulong was "trying to shift the issue away from his responsibilities in the atrocities." It challenged the military and the government to prove that no abuses had been committed in the area by organizing a fact-finding mission composed of senators and congressmen.

Military Uncovers MNLF Plot To Oust Misuari

HK2203055591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 22 Mar 91 p 3

[By Alvin Tarroza]

[Text] Jolo—Military intelligence operatives who have strengthened their information-gathering have uncovered a plot of certain leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to unseat Nur Misuari as chairman of the secessionist movement.

A ranking military officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the plan not to recognize Misuari as their chairman was due to his long absence and lack of support for the MNLF. The same source said that even leaders of the MNLF local hierarchy were reportedly getting insufficient support from Misuari, who has been living in the Middle East for years.

A certain Nori Sahibuddin, the MNLF military provincial commander of Sulu, is allegedly being eyed by the movement's hierarchy to replace Misuari. The choice for Sahibuddin is believed to be because the province of Sulu is the stronghold of the MNLF with its big number of followers based there.

'Kidnap Group' Uses Ransom Money To Buy Arms

HK2103152491 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] Chief General Rodolfo Biazon revealed today that there is connivance between the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and the feared dangerous kidnap group [as heard] in Mindanao.

In a closed-door hearing a while ago in the Senate, South Command Chief General Yap said that there is a reward of 500,000 pesos for the arrest of Attorney Bago, alias Commander Mubarak, the head of the kidnapping group.

Biazon said, 134 members of the group were killed and seven were captured in an operation.

The group, according to General Yap, was already able to raise 10 million pesos from ransom money paid to them, which they in turn use to purchase arms.

Thailand

King Phumiphon Decrees 29 Mar NLA Meeting

BK2203124291 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Mar 91

["Royal Decree Convening Meeting of National Legislative Assembly"]

[Text] Royal Signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, given on 20 March 1991, being the 46th year under the reign of the present king.

His majesty the king has decreed that it be announced that whereas the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] has been established in accordance with the Constitution of 1991, empowered by Article 25 of the Constitution, he issues a decree convening the meeting of the NLA from 29 March 1991.

Countersigned by Anan Panyarachun, prime minister

Sunthon on Separation of Powers, Constitution

BK2203013791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The National Legislative Assembly [NLA] will not be pushed to accept a separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches and will be given a free hand to vote on the new constitution, National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said yesterday.

Gen Sunthon said he personally favoured separation of powers but reaffirmed that he would not make it a guideline for the NLA to follow. "This is why I am not in the NLA," he said.

Asked to comment on New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut's proposal for the dissolution of political parties, Gen Sunthon said the NPKC accepts all suggestions for consideration.

On the examination of assets of ex-ministers in the Chatchai governments, Gen Sunthon said the NPKC wanted the asset-examining committee led by Gen Sit Chirarot to complete its assignment as soon as possible. "The politicians on the list are our friends. We want them to be cleared as soon as possible," he said. However, Gen Sunthon said the asset-examining committee would not be rushed to complete its work.

The NPKC chairman also said that no definite decision had yet been made on whether state enterprise unions should be excluded from the Labour Relations Act. The Thammasat University student union has renewed its call for the National Peace-keeping Council to lift martial law. Student union leader Somkiat Chantharatsami said lifting of martial law would enable remote villagers suffering from various hardships to organise rallies to air their grievances. It would also enable the general public to express their opinions freely. Mr Somkiat called on the NPKC and the interim government to speed up the drafting of the constitution and call a referendum on the draft once it is completed.

Anan Addresses Gathering at Government House

BK2103013991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The Government wants every Thai to have his own home, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said yesterday. To make this possible, the Government may have to provide subsidies for people to build their own homes or obtain housing units by hire-purchase, Mr Anan said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to a gathering of about 300 people—from Bangkok and the provinces—at Government House yesterday. They included disabled people, slum dwellers, elderly people, labourers, road sweepers, petrol pump attendants, hotel staff, security guards, farmers, fishermen, hilltribe people and motorcycle taxi drivers. They were invited by the Prime Minister to voice their grievances.

"This meeting today is not a public relations exercise or a campaign for popularity because I am not a politician and never think about running in elections," Mr Anan said. "And I think my life after my term as premier will not involve politics. But for as long as I am in this position I will try to do my best without hoping to get anything in return."

Mr Anan said he had never wanted to get involved in politics and did not intend to do so in the future. "Regardless of how long the Government will last, after the end of my responsibilities I will go out of the political arena," he said.

Mr Anan said he wanted to make it known that, considering the country's many social problems, it was the Government's intention to see that every Thai person had his own house. "The house I am talking about may be a cottage, a wooden house, a shophouse or whatever people can live in. According to an economic development plan for 1992-1996, as many as 150,000 housing units will be needed. So we will try to think what we should do about this. I think it would be possible for the Government to provide subsidies for those wanting to build their own houses or for interest in hire-purchase of housing units. The Government may have to allocate a budget for this purpose. I think this can be done," Mr Anan said.

The Prime Minister also said he wanted people in rural areas to have clean water and electricity. He said there was no specific agency to seriously tackle social problems because the responsibilities were shared by various ministries concerned with social affairs.

"This is why I have to find out where those problems are and what should be done to solve them. As for immediate problems, the Government will try to solve them as soon as possible. We may not be able to tackle problems requiring a long time to solve. What we can do is lay down groundwork for the next government," Mr Anan said.

The Prime Minister expressed concern over child labour, saying the government would try to give children wider opportunities for education. On prostitution, Mr Anan said it was a social problem which could not be solved easily because it had existed for a long time. He said he only hoped to see the problem solved to some extent. On narcotics, he said: "We need to impose heavier punishment on drug traffickers. At the same time, we have to rehabilitate drug addicts to bring them back to society as good citizens. However, this will require a huge budget. "The Government will propose a narcotics law when the National Legislative Assembly convenes."

The Prime Minister said he was particularly concerned about AIDS. He said both prostitution and drugs were conducive to the spread of AIDS. "I will see to it that all agencies join hands to tackle this problem," he said.

Addressing the elderly, he urged them to exercise to maintain their strength instead of sitting around doing nothing. At the same time, the Government would push for public organisations to take better care of the aged, he said.

Mr Anan also spoke on democracy, saying: "In a democracy, everybody must have a share in every matter. Don't rely solely on the Government. The Government has many limitations and is not able to know every problem," he said.

Editorial on Police-Organized Crime Cooperation

BK2103023191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Mar 91 p A11

[Editorial: "Unmasking Jao Pho"]

[Text] Altogether about 200 jao pho [organized crime bosses] are on the police list of men to watch, and we presume, to handle with great care. The national police chief yesterday met a group of select jao pho in a secret meeting to "seek cooperation" of these influential figures to help maintain law and order by avoiding all illegal activities. Those whose notoriety has not reached national levels were invited to meet with the regional police chief nearest to their home territory.

Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat wouldn't disclose the identities of the top jao pho he met for fear of embarrassing them. This is understandable. The police chief himself believes that there are two kinds of jao pho: the good and the bad. Presumably all those invited to the secret meeting were of the former category. After all, people are always presumed innocent (though not necessarily good) until proven otherwise by hard evidence. But the public generally thinks of criminal activity at the mention of jao pho.

We imagine the police message to all the jao pho would be something like this: "Be good. Don't give us any more trouble. Or else..." But jao pho have heard similar messages before. Every time a new national police chief or a new interior minister comes to power he formally declares war on jao pho and vows to spare no efforts in cracking down on their illegal operations. Then a great deal of publicity is given to an "urgent order" to start compiling a "black list" of jao pho in each province. Recent experience shows that nothing is accomplished from such posturing.

Before long the jao pho continue their "business" as usual and occasionally can be seen mingling amiably with senior police officers, military officers, provincial officials and national politicians. Junior policemen and soldiers are sometimes seconded from their units to provide extra protection for jao pho, who prefer men in uniform as they can legally carry automatic assault rifles and hand grenades.

We are very sceptical that the current campaign by the police to "seek cooperation" from jao pho will produce anything other than a few days of news reports in the press. We do believe police chief Sawat doesn't want to have anything to do with jao pho—but can he really wean his men from taking jao pho's money and freebies? Jao pho usually have both legitimate and illegitimate businesses. The latter range from illegal gambling, underground lottery betting and illegal logging to encroachment on public land, narcotic trafficking and arms smuggling. Many jao pho have grown sophisticated and cultivated a highly respectable public image through their generous donations to charity or "devotion" to some social services and sports organizations. They have actively supported political parties and bankrolled the election campaigns of some promising politicians. Several MPs [members of Parliament] wept openly when a jao pho in Ang Thong was blown to pieces by a remote controlled anti-personnel mine. Some jao pho and their family members have stood in general elections and, of course, won. They can wield political power to enhance their prestige, command respect from local officials and police, and punish those who care to stand in their way.

Seeking their "cooperation" or demanding that police officers dissociate themselves from jao pho will not change a thing. If the police really want to cut jao pho down to size, they must crack down on their illegal operations immediately. With the money they make from these activities, jao pho build up their sphere of influence, pay gunmen, buy friends and bribe protectors. Without it, they would have to come down to earth and stay within the law.

Some jao pho will claim to be under the patronage of key military leaders on the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC]. But Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, secretary-general of the NPKC, has given his word that the NPKC will not tolerate jao phos' illegal activities. The police should take his word for it.

Some, if not all, the jao pho may not change for the better. In this case the police must come up with a systematic approach to dealing with them. The police could also seek cooperation from the Revenue Department in auditing jao phos' legitimate businesses as long as there is reason to believe that a certain jao pho is still engaged in illegal operations.

Jao phos' men arrested in connection with a crime may be offered a plea bargaining deal in which they testify against their losses in exchange for leniency or freedom.

If this still is not enough, the anti-graft Sit Committee could extend its reach into the property and financial records of jao pho and subject them to an investigation like the 25 former ministers under investigation. Undoubtedly many jao pho have some connections with politicians, including some of these 25.

Let's find out for sure how many jao pho are really "good" community leaders who can win respect of local people and national fame through charisma and sacrifice, instead of intimidation and shady underground operations.

Khieu Samphan: Khmer Rouge To Attend Apr Meet

BK2203085691 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 22 Mar 91 p 24

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin disclosed that Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia as Khmer Rouge leader, had called on him.

Khieu Samphan said the Khmer Rouge has decided to attend a joint meeting in Jakarta in the late part of April in order to quickly settle the Cambodian conflict.

The Khmer Rouge leader believes that the other two Cambodian factions—the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the Sihanoukist faction—are also ready to participate in the meeting.

The foreign minister concluded that while the remaining Cambodian factions have not yet contacted him, Thailand is ready to open its doors to everyone.

Trip to Kuwait for Reconstruction Talks Planned

BK2203011991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister's Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi is to lead a Thai delegation to Kuwait in a bid to get a slice of the reconstruction jobs for Thai workers.

The team will hold talks on trade, labour and construction opportunities there, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday. He said Thailand was trying to send workers to the Middle East, especially war-torn Kuwait. However, it would also have to quickly complete investigations into the murder of Saudi Arabian diplomats in Bangkok. The Saudis want this cleared up and good relations with the desert kingdom hinge on this matter being resolved.

Thailand is keen to open as many avenues as possible for sending Thai workers to the Middle East. The first thing that Thailand should do is to offer assistance to Kuwait. Thai doctors have already been sent there, Mr Asa said. The Foreign Ministry has also ordered the Thai Embassy in Riyadh to send officials to inspect the Thai Embassy in Kuwait. After an inspection of the condition of the embassy a charge d'affairs would be sent to take care of it before an ambassador is appointed for Kuwait, Mr Asa said.

Thailand has also contacted Kuwait, through the American and British ambassadors in Bangkok, about subcontracting work. The Saudi charge d'affaires in Bangkok, Abdullah H.L. Subaili, met with him last week. He promised Thailand will quickly complete the investigation on the murder of the Saudi diplomats. At present the progress of the investigation is unsatisfactory.

Prime Minister on U.S. Assistance, Labor Law

BK2203070791 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] At the Government House this morning, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun answered reporters' questions on the frequent current meetings between the U.S. ambassador to Thailand and Thai high-level administrators. He said it is a normal practice for the U.S. ambassador to meet with the prime minister, deputy prime minister, or any other ministers when issues crop up.

Asked about the United States cutting its assistance to Thailand, the prime minister explained that the United States acts in accordance with its law on assistance. U.S. assistance to Thailand has been suspended only temporarily. However, Thailand and the United States have resumed contacts on various issues regularly.

On a move to exclude private enterprises from the labor law, the prime minister said the matter is under consideration. Consultations have been carried out with the National Peacekeeping Council in order to correct certain points or ease certain problems.

Minister Briefs Press on Talks With U.S. Envoy

BK2103144691 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Speaking to reporters after his meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue at the Commerce Ministry this morning, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said he and the U.S. ambassador had discussed textile and intellectual property rights problems. The Thai side explained to the U.S. ambassador that a Thai committee in charge of the talks had worked on these issues, which it expects to complete within next month. It will be able to arrange talks with the United States if the U.S. side is ready.

Regarding intellectual property rights, he said Thailand believed that intellectual property protection will benefit the country in the long term. Violation of intellectual property rights benefits only a small group of people, but has a negative impact on millions of people. In addition, Thailand believes that violation of intellectual property rights is incorrect. The Thai side also expressed readiness for a meeting of the joint trade commission, which has been postponed due to the political situation. The U.S. side has agreed to inform its officials on this issue and the result will be known within the next two weeks.

Views Intellectual Property Rights

BK2203043491 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 22 Mar 91 p 4

[Text] Speaking to reporters after his meeting with the U.S. ambassador to Thailand on 21 March, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Office has been satisfied with the progress of the Thai-U.S. trade talks that began two weeks ago, particularly on the problems of textile and intellectual property rights. The U.S. ambassador told Amaret that he will make a trip to the United States to consult with the U.S. State Department on a date for the next round of talks.

Amaret said Thailand should provide the same degree of protection of intellectual property rights as the countries of similar socioeconomic status like South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. Thailand should correct what is still incorrect, because protecting intellectual property rights will stimulate Thailand to be more self-reliant. In addition, he said that the problem of intellectual property rights protection in Thailand is caused by only a small group of people who want to maintain their own benefits, while the problem has an impact on all the people in the country.

Amaret said that the Commerce Ministry is expected to speed up revising the law concerning this issue so that it may be completed within the month of April before a proposal is submitted to the National Legislative Assembly.

Further on Amaret's Comments

BK2203023591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Mar 91 p B1

[By Atchara Pongwutthitham]

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on yesterday criticized some local interest groups for attacking the government's efforts to improve intellectual property protection, and pledged to strengthen related laws during the life of the caretaker government.

Amaret made the strongly-worded statement after a meeting with US Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue. The minister quoted O'Donohue as saying that he was satisfied with the progress Thailand had made in the areas of intellectual property rights protection and bilateral textile talks.

O'Donohue conveyed the message to Amaret only five days after the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that it would initiate an investigation into the Thai government's policies and practices relating to pharmaceutical patent protection.

The action was taken in response to a petition filed by the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. It is the second investigation of Thailand's intellectual property practices in the last three months. On December 21 last year, the US initiated an investigation of Thailand's copyright enforcement practices.

Commerce Minister Amaret, meanwhile, told the ambassador that Thailand will strengthen its intellectual property laws to equal those enforced in Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore because they concern social order and the rights of the innovators. "Thailand should improve its protection in every aspect for a long time because the protection will stimulate local people to develop sophisticated technology and products. A country cannot advance economically if it cannot create new things," he added.

The problems concerning intellectual property protection in Thailand emerged because of a small group of people whose immediate concern is to preserve their own interests while the consequences will hit the whole nation, Amaret said. "It is not correct that the country protects the interests of a few people," the minister added.

The ministry's policy in this short period of the interim administration is to correct trade rules in order to chart the right course for the future.

Concerning intellectual property protection, the Thai government will continue to strengthen related laws. Legislation is being amended before submission to the Parliament.

The minister was referring to the Patent Act BE [Buddhist Era] 2522 which is under review by the Cabinet-appointed committee chaired by Permanent Secretary Phachara Itsarasena, which is scheduled to meet for the final consideration on March 28.

Thai-U.S. Group To Discuss Future Aviation Talks

BK2203024791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Mar 91 p 19

[Text] Negotiations on Thai-US civil aviation will today reach their climax with both parties deciding whether to continue discussions or, having failed to reach an agreement, to suspend them and plan for business operations following this month's expiry of the existing agreement.

According to Civil Aviation Department Deputy Director-General Rungrot Siprasoetsuk, also head of the Thai negotiating team, the US side proposed the discussion of flight frequency and capacity for the first time yesterday. This topic was considered the highlight of the meeting, especially as the stance of the Thai side was to create equality in aviation for both sides. Negotiations had begun on Monday and were to finish within three days, but had been extended to Friday.

Mr Rungrot said negotiations would continue if today's discussion showed signs of progress. If not, they would be suspended until the two parties set a new negotiation schedule. He denied disclosure of the US proposal but said there would be many more topics to be discussed because the current negotiations meant both sides were writing new draft agreements. The Thai side still wanted to raise several matters at the meeting. The discussion on flight frequency and capacity will continue today. "If the negotiation makes no progress, it will be useless to continue the discussion. Only if we see a sign of progress, we will extend the meeting," he said.

Mr Rungrot said both sides also would discuss civil aviation relations between the two countries following the expiry of the aviation agreement.

Talks Achieve 'Satisfactory Progress'

BK2203122691 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Delegates of the U.S. and Thai Governments met in Bangkok from 18 to 22 March to discuss a new bilateral civil aviation agreement. The meeting was held in a good atmosphere and achieved good progress which will lead to an agreement.

Regarding flight frequency and capacity, both sides agreed that it is necessary to control the flight service between the two countries. Details on methods to control flight capacity will be discussed. Because of the limited time of this meeting, both sides agreed to meet again in Washington D.C., at a date to be fixed later, to discuss issues which remain unresolved.

This meeting achieved satisfactory progress and there is a chance that a new agreement will be reached in the near future. Therefore, both delegations held that it is beneficial to allow the U.S. airlines to maintain the current number of flights to Thailand until October.

Japanese Envoy Meets Minister on Ties, Trade

BK2203080191 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Speaking to reporters after his meeting with Hisahiko Okasaki, Japanese ambassador to Thailand, at the Foreign Ministry this morning, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said he explained to the Japanese envoy that, at present, the political situation in Thailand has returned to normal. The administration of the country is moving toward a democratic system. The indications of this include the announcement of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, the appointment of a civilian government, and the setting up of the National Legislative Assembly.

The Japanese ambassador understands the points well. He expects the relations between Thailand and Japan to continue smoothly. The Japanese ambassador reiterated that Japan is still interested in further investment in Thailand. Both sides also exchanged views on the Cambodian problem and expressed similar ideas on the general scope of the issue.

Article Views Effect of Coup on Japanese Policy

BK2203014791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Mar 91 p A8

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] The sudden departure of former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and his advisers in a coup last month has left Japan scurrying around for a new venue to pursue and maintain its active role in the region, especially with regard to the Cambodian problem.

Since early last year, Chatchai had encouraged Japan to expand its role in the Cambodian peace process. During his visit to Japan last April, Chatchai called on Japan to host peace talks among the four warring Cambodian factions.

Japan took up the challenge and organized the peace talks which was the first major diplomatic undertaking in Tokyo after World War II. The two-day meeting last June ended with a ceasefire agreement. The Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the military factions fighting the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government, boycotted the meeting and refused to sign the accord.

Even though the Tokyo agreement was not implemented by the concerned Cambodian parties, the meeting offered the opportunity for Japan to learn how to handle the different Cambodian factions and deal with the intricacies of the 12-year-old problem. Most importantly, the experience has given Japan the confidence in handling regional issues and subsequently was a launching pad for Tokyo in the field of active diplomacy towards finding a peaceful solution to the Cambodian crisis.

That explained why Tokyo urged the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] to free Chatchai when the Japanese envoy, Hisahiko Okazaki, called on one of the NPKC leaders after Anan Panyarachun was appointed caretaker prime minister.

Japan was the only country that expressed the hope that the Cambodian peace process would not be affected by the change of government in Thailand. But fearing that the momentum towards finding a peaceful solution to Cambodia would slow down, Japan moved quickly to remedy the situation. Shortly after the Feb 23 coup in Bangkok, Tokyo decided to propose a new initiative in Beijing over military arrangements during the interim period pending the elections under the UN peace plan for Cambodia. This was to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to their previous genocidal policies. There were however negative reactions from various concerned parties over the Japanese proposal. Only the Phnom Penh government backed the idea.

Japan said its plan was meant to supplement the UN efforts to prepare for a peaceful transition. Some countries were wary that it would dilute the current peace plan drawn up by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

After the Tokyo peace talks last year, Japan has been engaging in numerous diplomatic activities relating to efforts to end the Cambodian conflict. In close consultation with the Chatchai administration, some programmes, such as the project to rebuild Cambodia's infrastructure to facilitate the repatriation of some 300,000 Cambodians stranded at Thai-Cambodian border, were broached.

Through its Bangkok-based diplomats, Japan has become the only rich industrialized country that has contacts with all Cambodian factions: from resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to the Phnom Penh leaders including Prime Minister Hun Sen and Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly.

Japan's recent peace initiatives on Cambodia this year came amid criticisms of Japan's performance during the Gulf war in which Tokyo only gave financial assistance. The US and some of its allies in the Gulf wanted Japan to provide more assistance, including personnel to be deployed to the Middle East.

To provide the groundwork for the future involvement of Japanese personnel in the UN sponsored peace-keeping operation in Cambodia, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is currently working on a UN Peace-Keeping Cooperation law that would allow Japan to send non-combatants to join UN peace-keeping efforts.

Japan has also planned to call a new conference to urge the international community to reconstruct Cambodia and the rest of Indochina. Japan, together with Australia, is also cochairman of a committee to oversee the repatriation of refugees and reconstruction of Cambodia. The committee, one of the three, was formed during the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in 1989 to assume responsibility during the transition period in Cambodia pending the general election under the UN peace plan.

Japan's peace effort, through the good office of Thailand, has renewed interest amfong foreign policy makers in Tokyo to revive an old idea, which was proposed by former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda in 1977 aiming at integrating war-ravaged Indochina with the prosperous ASEAN (which Japan believes is the key to peace and stability in the region). The plan was put on hold when Vietnam invaded Cambodia at the end of 1978. The Cambodian problem since then has polarized relations in the region.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu planned to make a new major policy speech towards Southeast Asia in the post-Cambodia settlement in Bangkok recently as part of his visit to members of ASEAN countries. The proposed trip however was postponed because of the outbreak of the Gulf war.

Now Japanese diplomats here and Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo are in a quandary over what Kaifu would want to do when he visits Bangkok sometime in May. Some analysts say without Chatchai around, there is no need for Kaifu to "walk the extra mile" in announcing the new policy to compliment the former Thai premier's well-known slogan of turning the battlefield in Indochina into a marketplace. The ties between Kaifu and Chatchai are understandable. Over the time when Chatchai was prime minister, he met and discussed regional issues with Kaifu three times.

For better or for worse, the coup in Thailand has jeopardized the scheduled visit of Japanese Emperor Akihito to Bangkok in September. The emperor's trip was meant to strengthen the special relations between Thailand and Japan and their royal connections. The Japanese Imperial Household is reassessing the planned visit, according to a diplomat.

Japan is normally timid in taking any political initiatives. What one witnessed in recent months on Japan's active policy on Cambodia was an exception. It is on record that Japan has credited Chatchai for initiating efforts to break the ice in Tokyo's diplomacy to participate actively in regional affairs. With a new Thai civilian-led administration in Bangkok, it remains to be seen how Japan would deal with the new political situation in Thailand.

Vietnam

Justice Minister Interviewed on Talks With U.S.

BK2203041891 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Interview with Phan Hien, justice minister and president of the Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association, by unidentified Vietnam television and radio correspondents; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: The second Vietnam-U.S. dialogue took place recently at Montego Bay, Jamaica. Justice Minister Phan Hien, who is also president of the Vietnam-U.S. Friendship Association, was head of the Vietnamese delegation to the dialogue. On this occasion, we television and radio correspondents have come to see Minister Phan Hien.

[First correspondent] Comrade, first of all please give us some information about the dialogue. What was the international background against which the dialogue took place?

[Phan Hien] [Sentence indistinct] Now, many years have passed, but there are still no normal relations between the two countries. So, we have to act now. The U.S. delegation was composed of researchers, congressmen, journalists, and businessmen. The Vietnamese delegation included similar elements, but the U.S. delegation was larger because the venue of the dialogue was closer to the United States, while the Vietnamese delegation had about ten members. The two delegations exchanged views on several issues with a view toward achieving the objective of normalizing relations and lifting the embargo.

[First correspondent] The issues you just mentioned—the outstanding questions in Vietnam-U.S. relations—how were they perceived at the dialogue?

[Phan Hien] During the dialogue, which lasted four days, the two sides took turns presenting their views and asking each other questions to improve their mutual understanding in various matters. Among the regional problems brought up for discussion, Cambodia stood out as the first and foremost issue in Southeast Asia. What then was Vietnam's attitude toward this issue? What was the U.S. policy on this issue? And aside from the United

States, what was the attitude of other big powers toward Cambodia? We needed to know this to quickly move toward a settlement of the Cambodia issue. The second question dealt with the changes that have been taking place around the world. What they wanted to talk about were the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. What was the impact, if any, of these economic and political changes on Vietnam-U.S. relations? The two sides also exchanged views on the strategic aspect and on the concrete aspects of this question. The third question was our economic reforms. They often asked whether Vietnam would continue to maintain its renovation policy throughout the 1990s. Well, on this question, we affirmed that we would stick to renovation, but in this process we must always act in accordance with the developmnent of the actual situation.

There was another question: What are the prospects for normalization of Vietnam-U.S. relations, and how do we perceive this issue? After exchanging views, everyone agreed that relations must be normalized, and that, 15 years after the U.S. pullout from Vietnam and several months after our withdrawal from Cambodia, there is no excuse for the continuation of tension here.

[Second correspondent] Minister, please tell us about the prospects for Vietnam-U.S. relations?

[Phan Hien] This is a question that is hard to answer; some forecasting is necessary here. In politics and diplomacy, it is natural to forecast and to make predictions about a situation. This is something diplomats and politicians often have to do. The Jamaica meeting was not an official one. It was a meeting with U.S. congressmen, U.S. officials, journalists, businessmen, and rsearchers. Everyone was free to express his views, nobody drew any final conclusions, and no final statement was issued. However, from start to finish, every participant in the conference agreed that relations with Vietnam must be normalized. There were no different opinions on this point; everyone was unanimous that, in the interests of both Vietnam and the United States, there must be an early abolition of the embargo against Vietnam. Moreover, the meeting was under way when the Gulf war broke out, and President Bush himself said the Vietnam syndrome must be erased one way or another. We Vietnamese understand all too well what the Vietnam syndrome means to the United States. But now, that situation has passed, and we think that, under the current circumstances, conditions have become more favorable. So, we can affirm with certainty that normalization will come.

[First correspondent] Thank you, Comrade Minister.

Workers in Bulgaria Discussed at Press Briefing

BK2103160891 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—Mrs. Ho The Lan, head of the Press and Information Department and spokeswoman of the Foreign Ministry, gave a regular press briefing here this afternoon.

Asked to comment on the proposal of the Malaysian Prime Minister for a dialogue between the ASEAN countries and Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar [Burma] starting with a foreign ministerial meeting of these countries followed by the participation of leaders of Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar in the meeting to be held in Singapore late this year or early next year, the spokeswoman said: "We welcome that proposal of the Malaysian prime minister. This is a positive proposal since it conforms with the present trend toward dialogue in the world and especially with the aspiration of the countries in the region to build Southeast Asia into a region of peace, neutrality, stability and cooperation".

In reply to a question by Akahata correspondent concerning the reaction of foreign countries especially China, the United States, Thailand and Laos, to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's Feb. 28 statement on the Cambodian issue, Mrs. Ho The Lan said: "Many countries have welcomed Vietnam's statement of February 28. According to foreign reports, on March 11 Xu Dunxin, assistant to the Chinese Foreign Minister, told his American counterpart, Mr. Solomon, that China is ready to observe self-restraint in the supply of arms to all Khmer factions if the other sides follow suit. The United States and the Soviet Union on September 1989 issued a joint proposal for a moratorium on military aid to all warring Cambodian factions.

"It can be said that large sections of the world public has asserted that the cessation of foreign arms supply and the implementation of a cease-fire are imperative [words indistinct] thus creating a favourable climate for the re-convening of the Supreme National Council's meeting to settle the internal affairs of Cambodia in the advance toward an overall political solution to the Cambodian question."

Answering Kyodo correspondent's question relating to the clash between Bulgarian police and Vietnamese workers on the outskirts of Sofia on March 17, the Vietnamese spokeswoman said: " This clash has been widely reported in the Vietnamese media. We would like to make these additional remarks: Up to the present, about 15,000 Vietnamese workers still remain in Bulgaria. Under a protocol signed on May 23, 1990 between Vietnam and Bulgaria, the Bulgarian side took responsibility for organizing and paying for the repatriation of the Vietnamese workers and for defraying the cost of their stay in Bulgaria pending repatriation and creating favourable customs conditions for them to send their goods and take along their luggages to Vietnam. Since December 1990, the Bulgarian side has not organized any flight for Vietnamese workers who had terminated their contracts. Consequently the number of Vietnamese waiting for repatriation has run into thousands, including many who have waited for 4-5 months and met very big difficulties in abode and finance. We hope that these questions could be solved soon. Since December 1990, Vietnam has on three occasions sent notes to the Bulgarian side (Dec.20, 1990, Feb.4, and March 18, 1991).

Vietnam's concerned offices have time and again met competent Bulgarian offices to ask that the Bulgarian side abide by the signed agreements. At those meetings, the Bulgarian side recognized its responsibility to repatriate the Vietnamese workers. On March 15, 1991, the Bulgarian side informed Vietnam that the Vietnamese workers will be transported home on two flights on March 26 and 28 and four other flights are due early April, each carrying about 150 persons.

The incident on March 17 at the apartment building of the Vietnamese workers in Sofia is a regrettable event. On behalf of the Vietnamese Government, a Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister has handed a note to the Bulgarian ambassador in Hanoi demanding that the Bulgarian administration take urgent and resolute measures to put an immediate end to similar acts, ensure safety for the life and properties of the Vietnamese workers, investigate and seriously punish all the culprits, compensate for all losses caused to the Vietnamese workers, and set free at once all the arrested. The note also demands that the Bulgarian side urgently bring back to Vietnam all Vietnamese workers who can no longer work in Bulgaria under the term agreed between the two governments.

Bulgarian Envoy Gives Ministry Note on Workers

BK2103161991 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—Bulgarian ambassador to Vietnam Genotoshkov today handed over to the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry a note in reply to Vietnam's March 18 note on the March 17 incident concerning Vietnamese guest workers in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian side expressed its regret at the tragic development of the incident as well as its belief that similar incidents would not occur again. The Bulgarian side also affirmed its willingness to implement the already achieved agreements so as to quickly solve the question of repatriating the Vietnamese guest workers. The Bulgarian informed that there will be two flights in March and 14 flights in April, carrying the Vietnamese workers home from Bulgaria.

Le Quang Dao To Visit USSR in 'Near Future'

BK2203081291 Hanoi VNA in English 0706 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—At the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, a delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Chairman Le Quang Dao will pay an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union in the near future.

The visit is announced in a press release today of the Office of the National Assembly and the State Council.

Tran Quang Co Meets Philippine Counterpart

BK2103162091 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—Philippine Deputy Foreign Minister Manuel T. Yao and his wife paid a six-day visit to Vietnam which ended today.

They were accompanied by deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for the Asia-Pacific Region, representatives of the Central Bank, the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Trade Company.

While in Hanoi from March 16-19, the delegation paid a tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his home and office and the Ho Chi Minh museum.

It was warmly received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi and Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach. Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co held talks with the Philippine delegation. The two sides informed each other of the development and external policy of their respective countries, exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual concern and discussed measures to strengthen the friendship and cooperation, particularly in the commercial and economic fields, between the two countries. The two sides agreed in principle that a joint commission for economic and trade cooperation would be set up.

The delegation left Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh City on March 20.

Vo Chi Cong Receives New Cambodian Ambassador

BK2103162591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] On 21 March, Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State, received Uch Borit, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia to Vietnam, who paid the chairman a courtesy call. Chairman Vo Chi Cong had cordial talks with Ambassador Uch Borit.

Do Muoi Receives Uch Borit

BK2103161591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] On 20 March Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received Uch Borit, Cambodian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, who paid the chairman a courtesy visit. Chairman Do Muoi had cordial talks with Ambassador Uch Borit.

Radio Rebuts Critics of CPV Leadership

BK2103145191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Mar 91

[Unattributed Article: "Sincerity or Ill Intention"]

[Text] Recently, for no reason at all, some in Western press and radio circles have successively disseminated petitions sent abroad by a certain number of people in our country, which they claim are sincere contributions to building the party before the congress is held.

How sincere are they? They have denied all renovation achievements our country has scored since the sixth party congress. They have criticized our party leaders as greedy for power and position, and finally indirectly they advised our party leaders to let people-elected agencies and the state take over leadership. Their intent is notorious. They have denied our renovation achievements in order to deny our party leadership. Such a denial is a premise to wiping out party leadership and shifting our country to another path. The mass media of some countries have chimed in on this denial just as every cook praises his own broth because it suits his taste.

Has not international anticommunism rejoicingly proclaimed that the last decade of this 20th century will witness the end of communism? Since the crisis of the socialist system in Eastern Europe occurred, forces hostile to communism have capitalized on the opportunity to successively throw harmful blows at the remaining socialist countries, including Vietnam. They have tried to exacerbate some shortcomings and weaknesses of the party in its leadership and to attract, instigate, and divide the people from the party, hoping to overthrow the revolutionary administration.

However, the situation in Vietnam differs from that in other countries. Although some aspects of the socioeconomic crisis are still serious and acute, many others have been and are being overcome effectively step-by-step. The people-party relationship remains consistently the traditional blood-sealed relationship. Even though the party has at times revealed shortcomings and committed mistakes, the mainstream of this relationship in life remains the people's confidence in the party and the party's attachment to the people.

The people believe in the party because they understand the cause the party has wholeheartedly fought for and built, and realize that the party has persistently pursued the revolutionary ideal in its own interests and for the national community as a whole, and not for any personal interests. For the time being, due to some shortcomings and weaknesses, the party's prestige among the people has declined in some localities and at certain moments. Nevertheless, with its responsibility for leading the country, the party has several times conducted self-criticism publicly. Since the sixth party congress, it has resolved to step-by-step overcome shortcomings to regain its credibility.

The purpose, scope, method, good points and shortcomings, advantages and difficulties, achievements and failures of the party in each specific period that have been pointed out in documents for public comment are clear, righteous, and just. A genuinely revolutionary party does not have to hide and dodge its shortcomings and mistakes. It is natural and normal that some people or even many people in some places have held different views and methods to some extent in their assessment of the situation. Democracy is the ability to listen, assess, select the right ideas, and eliminate wrong ones in order to enable the revolution to develop in accordance with its law.

It is mainly due to such beliefs and such steadfast political ability that pluralism and multipartyism, and demands for extreme democracy have no chance to bud in this country. Some subjective people who have underestimated this blood-sealed relationship have hastily played up the weak aspects of the situation in order to demand that the party turn over leadership to others and that its supreme leaders retire. These people do not want the Communist Party leadership. Who and which class or strata of people do they want to take the reins of leadership then?

It is quite strange that while the Communist Party initiated the renovation process and strives to renew itself to promote the revolutionary cause, and while important initial successes are being achieved in the renovation process, the party has suddenly become a barrier and an obstacle to the advance of the revolution in our country. Can such unreasonable logic be accepted? Can such a way of raising the question be considered sincere and goodwilled ?

Public opinion is very reasonable in judging that such a viewpoint paves the way for a tendency to eliminate the socialist ideal, wipe out all gains the revolution has brought to this country, and eradicate the role of the party and its members. Is this a call originating from outside anticommunist forces which have been waiting in the wings? Probably some of them have thought that now is the time for them to reappear.

However, which force is going to replace the Communist Party on the political stage? Following the October Revolution in Russia, some people argued that due to the poor level of knowledge of production forces in the country and despite success in seizing power, the proletariat should turn the administration over to another class and wait until production forces can develop.

The argument of these perverse scholars was criticized by Lenin. Lenin requested that the administration be preserved, built, and consolidated to create conditions for the country's economy to develop in conformity with law.

The Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] has recognized that in the course of economic development, some policies are still at variance with law. It has drawn upon experience and corrected them. Even the most naive people can still realize that power is the problem of all revolutions. Has not the recent experience in East Europe reminded us that a loss of power is a total loss?

What became of the revolutionary masses and Communist Party members vis a vis international anticommunism in the past and in our country when Ngo Dinh Diem was in power? The truth is as clear as daylight! Without the Communist Party there would be no revolutionary administration, nor is there another political party that can build socialism! Some people here and there are still nurturing the illusion of returning to the capitalist road, hoping probably to get out of the crisis. They forget that even though the capitalist world is still capable of adapting itself to the new conditions of modern technology, it continues to recede.

It is naive to think that once socialism is eliminated, capitalism can be expected to dump money and other material assets into the country so that together, hand in hand, people will advance to the paradise of the free world and coexist under the same roof. What has taken place in East Europe, particularly in the German Democratic Republic and in the recent Gulf war, certainly has taught profound lessons to those who have made such a mistake.

Those who have intentionally attacked our party have frequently used such words as half-finished renovation, dogmatism, and conservatism. They previously criticized our party for mechanically imitating and applying foreign countries' ways of doing things to Vietnam. Now they want our party to learn the ways of pluralism, unbridled democracy, and renovation resulting in destruction of the party and socialism. But socialism in Vietnam is different from that in foreign countries.

Then, how should we assess what are called these heartfelt and sincere suggestions? What an illusion to advise others to follow suit while one is following in the rut of overturned carts! Some other people have criticized the CPV leaders for being greedy for power and position. What is the truth ?

Since the sixth party congress, groups of members of the Political Bureau, Secretariat, and party Central Committee; groups of ministers and vice ministers in the government; and quite a number of leading cadres of all sectors and all ranks have been gradually replaced. There has been no small number of young intellectuals, including non-party members, who have been introduced into high positions of the party and the state.

It should also be recognized that for many reasons some old comrades must still shoulder the leading responsibility. The combination of several classes of old and young cadres to succeed one another at the leading components is essentially a requirement. Leaders of a country are required to go through many tests to clearly manifest their ability and quality. It is not easy to replace them all at one time. Other countries are no different.

A look at the world's nations reveals that the number of key leaders at least 70 years old makes up a not insignificant group. We expect that through each party congress the number of competent and good young people will increase every day to replace the class of old people. Rejuvenating our ranks is a correct policy of our party and state. However, rejuvenation should not lead to lower qualifications and to finally falling into work done for the sake of formality.

Those who purposely try to eliminate the party leadership have left no stone unturned to incite and divide the people from the party and separate the party from the state. Their viewpoints do not help bring political stability but only cause trouble among the people. If some aspects of the relations between the party and people or between the party and state are still somewhat weak, a worthwhile contribution would be one aimed mainly at strengthening effectively the role of state management and enhancing party leadership while creating new confidence among the people.

All contributions to building the party and the country are treasurable. However, those aforementioned ill-intentioned suggestions should be criticized.

Army Paper Marks CPV's Founding Anniversary

BK2203101791 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 3 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[3 February QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Editorial: "A Bountiful and Happy Life for the People—the Party's Goal and the People's Cause]

[Text] Over the past 61 years, our party, which was founded and forged by the venerated Uncle Ho to act as a political vanguard brigade of the working class and the entire society and as a representative of the legitimate rights of the laboring people and the entire nation, has scored brilliant revolutionary achievements. It ended the French colonialist-imposed yoke of domination which lasted for nearly 100 years, defeated the cruelest enemies of the era, completely liberated the country, achieved national unification, and created the opportunity for the entire nation to advance toward socialism.

For more than 60 years now, with well-defined revolutionary goals in mind—liberating the nation from the yoke of slavery, developing the country, and building a bountiful and happy life for the people—our party has undergone countless trials and hardships and has constantly pursued the revolutionary objectives. It has preserved the purity of Marxism-Leninism and the thoroughly revolutionary nature of the working class, firmly grasped all opportunities and the law governing the development of the revolutionary movement, and resolutely opposed all viewpoints, trends, and thinking contradictory to its noble ideals and goals.

For more than 60 years now, the cause of national liberation and national construction has witnessed countless changes, difficulties, and complicated developments. Besides great achievements, our party has inevitably committed errors. This is normal under the law of evolution. However, the party's great strength lies in the very fact that it has constantly maintained a blood-and-flesh relationship with the people at every stage of the revolution. Our party has always correctly evaluated itself, especially its shortcomings and weaknesses, and has made every effort to improve. Therefore, in good as well as bad times, our entire people have trusted and hoped that the party will rectify its shortcomings and weaknesses, if any, expressing their desire to follow the party until the end.

The party-initiated renovation has reached a major turning point. We have scored important initial results. However, the international situation has developed in a more complicated manner and has had a more adverse impact. As far as our country is concerned, old and new difficulties have posed unprecedentedly great challenges to our national economy. Because this is an historic turning point, our entire party, people, and Army must unite and work together to implement the path traced by our party, Uncle Ho, and the people 61 years ago.

The year 1991 marks important events in our country's political life. Our entire party and people are contributing suggestions to the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress, which will be entrusted with the heavy task of deriving experiences from achievements and failures and of drafting the revolutionary platform on socialist construction for the transition period and the socioeconomic development strategy up to the year 2000. This is to bring stability and gradual progress to the nation, eliminate poverty and backwardness, and secure a bountiful and happy life for the people.

Great difficulties lie ahead but we have already gained important experiences. The new situation requires not only correct party policies and strategies but also a vanguard role, good quality, and competence on the part of cadres and party members.

The renovation has created a democratic atmosphere for all party activities. Party organizations from the central down to the grass-roots levels have all attached importance to and secured democracy for all party activities, regarding this as not only the most important measure for bringing into full play the intellect of collective leadership but also as a practical way for criticism and self-criticism to be effective, in order to guarantee purity, steady progress, solidarity, and unity within the party.

Seeking practical ways to gradually improve the people's current living conditions must be a political responsibility and special concern of the leadership at all levels. The party's objectives do not always involve the future but they are vividly reflected through their views and approaches to everyday problems, in conformity with the principle of regarding the people as the roots and the revolution as the people's cause.

Our renovation has scored initial results but continued efforts are needed to effect drastic and comprehensive reform. It is necessary to revamp the party and enhance its leadership and militancy so that it can become a genuine political vanguard brigade for the entire society. Our Army founded and forged by the party and venerated Uncle Ho has undergone all revolutionary stages, has displayed boundless loyalty to the party and people, and has served as an effective and reliable tool for defeating the enemy and protecting the party and the regime. Under all circumstances, our cadres, party members, and soldiers must consolidate their stance, firmly believe in the party, and make every effort to build and develop the socialist regime. Let us pledge our determination to participate in learning and training, aimed at turning the people's army into an increasingly regular and modern military organization with the strength to be a mainstay of the all-people national defense system designed to protect the party and the regime. This shows that we are worthy of venerated Uncle Ho's teaching that "our Army is loyal to the party and faithful to the people and is capable of fulfilling all tasks, overcoming all difficulties, and defeating all enemies."

Tay Ninh Prosecutes Party Members for Corruption

BK2203070491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] In Tay Ninh, 400 party bases have finished classifying party members according to their qualifications and have begin holding first-round party congresses. As a result of an inspection of party members' implementation of the party statutes, 119 party committee members have been prosecuted for corruption. The Tay Ninh Provincial Party Committee has drawn experiences from the holding of grass-roots party organizations, especially in the selection of issues for discussion at party congresses. An effort will be made to avoid voting on issues not closely related to the contents of the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress; to prevent the use of party congresses as a forum only for airing complaints or reporting on negativism in society; and to guard against including grass-roots party organizations' own programs of action on party congresses' agenda, thus diluting the principal tasks of these congresses.

Lai Chau Holds First Round Party Congress

BK2203012091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] The party organization of Muong Lai District, Lai Chau Province, has just completed its first round congress with the participation of more than 100 party members from 29 party chapters and organizations from the grass-roots level.

The congress studied and discussed the party line on renovation. Delegates expressed their determination to follow the path chosen by Uncle Ho and the party. Many party members of the ethnic minority groups suggested that the draft strategy of socioeconomic stabilization and development should clearly define concrete economic targets for the northwestern region, set measures for resolving the grain and forest preservation issues, design a method for mobilizing the people's combined strengths at home and abroad, and present a program for improving communications in the mountain region.

Security Guard Police Reviews 1990 Achievements

BK2203063791 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The Security Guard Police Command held a conference in Hanoi on 20 March to review security guard activities in 1990 and to initiate new work in accordance with the spirit of the resolution of the 46th National Conference on Public Security.

Major General Phan Van Toan, chief of the Security Guard Police Command, evaluated past security guard work and affirmed: Last year, the security guard forces satisfactorily brought into full play their role as an instrument of dictatorship of the party and state. They provided protection and ensured absolute safety of 1,346 activities of various party and state leaders and 52 foreign delegations visiting Vietnam; and safeguarded various targets and the central organs of the party and state, thereby actively contributing to the efforts of the People's Public Security Forces to firmly protect national security and maintain public order and social safety.

The command drew lessons of experience from the past year's activities to improve security guard work in the period ahead, especially the preparation to safeguard local party congresses and the forthcoming Seventh National Party Congress.

At a ceremony held to sum up achievements, Major General Phan Van Toan, on behalf of the command leadership, presented awards to units and individuals credited with outstanding achievements in 1990.

UNDP Official Addresses Investment Forum

BK2103051691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Mar 91

["Excerpts" of opening statement by David Smith, representative in Vietnam of the United Nations Development Program, delivered at the Investment Forum for Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City; date not given—recorded in English,fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Summary] It is a great honor for me to be present at the opening of this important forum today in Ho Chi Minh City held by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment [SCCI] with the sponsorship of UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] and the United Nations Development Program [UNDP].

"It is my understanding that there are more than 600 foreign investors attending the forum and this is proof of the great concern of many countries, companies, and organizations about investment in Vietnam. I know that there are about 400 Vietnamese representatives attending. Therefore we have up to 1000 Vietnamese and foreign representatives attending this forum."

I would like to outline the UNDP mission in Vietnam. Since UNDP started its program here in 1977, its has given the Socialist Republic of Vietnam aid totalling $230 million. Since last year, the UNDP has given SCCI about $500,000 to prepare for this forum. As I mentioned above, this forum has been carefully prepared by the Vietnamese Government and UNIDO. I highly evaluate UNIDO services in Vienna, Austria, and in Vietnam.

Since last year, many workshops were held in Vietnam as well as in Ho Chi Minh City and other localities to train the state cadres of ministries, banks, and other offices including provincial representatives, in the preparation of investment projects.

"In the framework of UNDP assistance to SCCI, a list of 187 projects were compiled and disseminated widely with the total capital of $6.847 billion. Apart from the 187 projects mentioned, in the last two weeks there have been more projects being submitted to SCCI." Copies of these projects will be handed out to anybody interested.

"With the UNDP technical and financial assistance, a guide book for investors in Vietnam was written and published. Moreover, in the last six months of 1990, reports on investment opportunity were presented in Asia—Japan, Hong Kong, and Australia—and in Europe—Austria, France, FRG, and Sweden—by two delegations on investment. Each delegation was led by a vice chairman of SCCI." Those reports stirred great interest by bankers and prospective investors in those countries. A video on Vietnam's investment potential was also presented.

Another project was carried out by the World Bank aimed at helping the Vietnamese Government implement economic and legal changes together with economic renovation. A group of lawyers has been working with the Ministry of Justice and SCCI to help constitute legal documents on internal and foreign investment. We invited two lawyers from the United States and France to provide legal advice to you on Wednesday morning.

"As you all know, the first foreign investment law passed by the Vietnam National Assembly allows Vietnamese businessmen to deal directly with foreign countries without going through state organizations. After further consultation with responsible government offices, an amendment to the above-mentioned law was passed by the National Assembly last year. It stipulates the allowance of direct dealings between Vietnamese businessmen and foreign companies. I hope that there will be more measures implemented so that Vietnamese businessmen can easily deal with foreign companies."

I believe that you will have many questions which our lawyers may be able to answer. I also know that many of you here are interested in investment in tourism in Vietnam. The general director of the Vietnam tourist organization, his colleagues, and a UNDP official on world tourism will address this forum. We can also provide copies of the new and more complete report on Vietnam's economy written by the UNDP and the Vietnam State Planning Commission in Vietnamese and in English.

It is inspiring to be here when Vietnam is moving from a centralized to a market oriented economy. "Vietnam, with its precious resources, abundant labor force, and correct open-door program certainly will succeed in its development effort."

Radio on Import-Export Value of Trade Sector

BK2203095691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] Since early this year, despite the many difficulties it faced as a result of the change in East European countries' trading system, the Vietnamese trade sector has managed to achieve an import-export value equivalent to that of the corresponding period last year. The bulk of imports consisted of strategic materials brought in to meet the demands of production and the people's life.

In the field of domestic trade, although no official plans have been assigned, various general corporations have dynamically mobilized large amounts of goods. In the first two months of 1991, the entire sector did nearly 900-billion dong worth of business transactions. Many general corporations and branches of commodities have taken numerous actions in close coordination with the production sector, such as investing capital in factories and enterprises, purchasing raw materials for those production establishments that lacked capital, and buying up their finished products later. To date, the General Corporation of Electricity, Machinery, Motorcyles, and Bicycles has signed contracts to buy more than 120-billion dong worth of goods from local production establishments. This figure represents more than 80 percent of the amount of goods the corporation needs to buy in the whole year.

Report on Agricultural Activities Nationwide

BK2203092891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Mar 91

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as of 15 March nearly 2,124,000 hectares of winter-spring rice had been planted throughout the country, exceeding the planned target and up by 3.55 percent over the last winter-spring crop. The northern provinces grew almost 1.59 million hectares. Nearly all the Red River Delta provinces have overfulfilled their cultivation targets. For their part, the southern provinces have harvested 240,750 hectares of early winter-spring rice, with the Mekong River Delta provinces reaping more than 208,000 hectares with a fairly good yield. Provinces that have harvested their winter-spring rice quickly are Long An, Tien Giang, Cuu Long, and Hau Giang.

For the next 10 days, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry reminds the northern localities to weed their ricefields, apply more fertilizer, and pay attention to crop pest detection in order to take timely preventive measures. At the same time, they should care for winter-spring vegetables and subsidiary food crops and grow summer vegetables. The southern provinces should urgently harvest the winter-spring rice that has ripened while preparing for the summer-fall crop, actively protect the rice crop against harmful insects and diseases, and concentrate their efforts on stamping out the current outbreak of brown planthoppers to save rice.